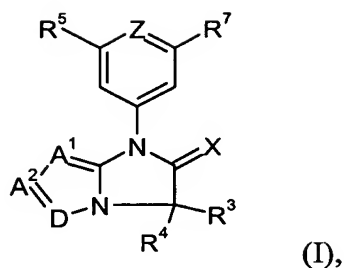


What is claimed is:

1. A compound of the formula I



wherein:

A¹ is =N- or =C(H)-;

A² is =N-, =C(H)-, or =C(R')- wherein R' is halogen, -CN, -Oalkyl, -CO₂alkyl or
 10 -SO₂alkyl, wherein the foregoing alkyl moieties are of 1 to 3 carbon atoms;

D is =N-, =C(R¹)-, =C(H)-, =C(SO₂R¹)-, =C(S(O)R¹)-, =C(C(O)R¹)-, =C(C(O)H)-,
 =C(SR^{1a})-, =C(OR^{1a})- or =C(NHR^{1a})-,

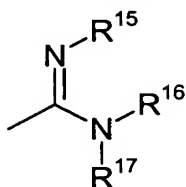
wherein R¹ is selected from the class consisting of:

- (A) -R¹⁰⁰, which is:
- 15 branched or unbranched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkenyl of 2 to 6 carbon
 atoms or cycloalkyl or cycloalkenyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms, in which alkyl,
 alkenyl, cycloalkyl or cycloalkenyl group one or more hydrogen atoms are
 optionally and independently replaced with:
- 20 (i) halogen,
- (ii) oxo,
- (iii) aryl or heteroaryl which is selected from the class consisting of phenyl,
 naphthyl, indolyl, thiophenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, furyl, pyrrolyl,
 oxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, imidazolyl, isothiazolyl,
 oxadiazolyl, triazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyridazinyl, pyrazinyl, triazinyl,
 indolizynyl, isoindolyl, benzo[b]furanyl, benzo[b]thiophenyl, indazolyl,
- 25

benzthiazolyl, benzimidazolyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, purinyl, quinoliziny, cinnolinyl, pthalaninyl, quinoxalinyl, naphthyridinyl, pteridinyl and quinazolinyl, wherein one or more hydrogen atoms of said aryl or heteroaryl group are optionally and independently replaced with:

- (a) alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms,
- (b) -COOH,
- (c) -SO₂OH,
- (d) -PO(OH)₂,
- (e) a group of the formula -COOR⁸, wherein R⁸ is straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 5 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 5 carbon atoms,
- (f) a group of the formula -NR⁹R¹⁰, wherein R⁹ and R¹⁰ are each independently a hydrogen atom, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms or acyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, or wherein R⁹ and R¹⁰ constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring,
- (g) a group of the formula -CONR¹¹R¹², wherein R¹¹ and R¹² are each independently a hydrogen atom, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or wherein R¹¹ and R¹² constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring, and wherein one carbon atom in said hydrocarbon bridge is optionally replaced by -O-, -S-, S(O)-, SO₂-, -NH-, or -NMe-,
- (h) a group of the formula -OR¹³, wherein R¹³ is a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms,
- (i) a group of the formula -SR¹⁴, wherein R¹⁴ is a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms,
- (j) -CN, or

- (k) an amidino group of the formula



wherein R^{15} , R^{16} and R^{17} are each, independently, a hydrogen atom or alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms and wherein two of R^{15} , R^{16} and R^{17} may additionally constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom(s) between them form a heterocyclic ring,

- (l) halogen,

- (m) a group of the formula $-\text{NHCONHalkyl}$, wherein the alkyl moiety contains 1 to 3 carbon atoms,

- (n) a group of the formula $-\text{NHCOOalkyl}$, wherein the alkyl moiety contains 1 to 3 carbon atoms,

- (iv) a group of the formula $-\text{COOR}^{18}$, wherein R^{18} is straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms,

- (v) $-\text{CN}$,

- (vi) a group of the formula $-\text{CONR}^{19}\text{R}^{20}$, wherein R^{19} and R^{20} are each, independently, a hydrogen atom, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or wherein R^{19} and R^{20} constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring, and wherein one carbon atom in said hydrocarbon bridge is optionally replaced by $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{S}-$, $\text{S}(\text{O})-$, SO_2- , $-\text{NH}-$, or $-\text{NMe}-$,

- (vii) a group of the formula $-\text{OR}^{21}$, wherein R^{21} is a hydrogen atom, or a straight or branched alkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, wherein one or more hydrogen atoms of said alkyl or acyl group are optionally replaced with a group independently selected from the class consisting of

-OH, -Oalkyl (wherein the alkyl moiety contains 1 to 6 carbon atoms),
-NH₂, -NHMe and -NMe₂,

(viii) a group of the formula -SR²², wherein R²² is a hydrogen atom, or an
alkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, wherein one or more
hydrogen atoms of said alkyl or acyl group are optionally replaced with a
group independently selected from the class consisting of -OH, -Oalkyl (wherein the alkyl moiety is 1 to 6 carbon atoms), -NH₂, -NHMe and -NMe₂,

(ix) a group of the formula -NR²³R²⁴, wherein R²³ and R²⁴ are each,
independently,

(a) a hydrogen atom,

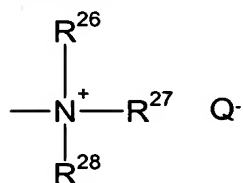
(b) straight or branched alkyl or acyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms or
cycloalkyl of 3 to 7 carbon atoms, wherein said one or more
hydrogen atoms of said alkyl or acyl group are optionally replaced
with a group independently selected from the class consisting of
-OH, -Oalkyl (wherein the alkyl moiety is 1 to 6 carbon atoms),
-NH₂, -NHMe and -NMe₂,

(c) a group of the formula -(CH₂)_mCOOH, wherein m is 0, 1 or 2,

(d) a group of the formula -(CH₂)_nCOOR²⁵, wherein n is 0, 1 or 2, and
wherein R²⁵ is straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or

(e) a group of the formula -(CH₂)_nCONHR²⁵, wherein n is 0, 1 or 2,
and wherein R²⁵ is straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon
atoms,

(x) a quaternary group of the formula



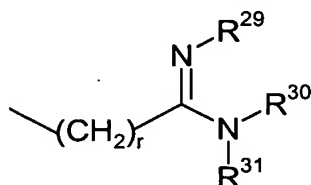
wherein R²⁶, R²⁷ and R²⁸ are each, independently, a branched or

unbranched alkyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms and Q^- is a pharmaceutically acceptable counter ion,

(xi) a saturated, or partially unsaturated heterocyclic group consisting of 3 to 7 ring atoms selected from N, O, C and S, including but not limited to imidazoliny, imidazolidiny, pyrroliny, pyrrolidiny, piperidiny, piperaziny, morpholiny, thiomorpholiny, thiazolidiny, azepiny, tetrahydropyrany, tetrahydrofurany, benzodioxoly, tetrahydrothiopheny and sulfolany, wherein said heterocyclic group is optionally mono- or polysubstituted with oxo, and

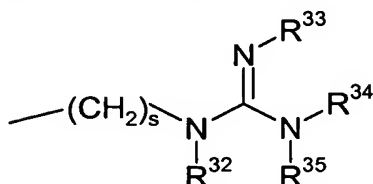
(xii) a cycloalkyl group of 3 to 7 carbon atoms,

- (B) branched or unbranched carboxylic acid groups of 3 to 6 carbon atoms,
- (C) branched or unbranched phosphonic acid groups of 2 to 6 carbon atoms,
- (D) branched or unbranched sulfonic acid groups of 2 to 6 carbon atoms,
- (E) amidino groups of the formula



wherein r is 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6, and R^{29} , R^{30} and R^{31} are each, independently, a hydrogen atom or alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms, and wherein two of R^{29} , R^{30} and R^{31} may additionally constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom(s) between them form a heterocyclic ring,

- (F) guanidino groups of the formula



wherein s is 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6, and R^{32} , R^{33} , R^{34} and R^{35} are each, independently, a hydrogen atom or alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms, and wherein

two of R³², R³³, R³⁴ and R³⁵ may additionally constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom(s) between them form a heterocyclic ring,

(G) aryl or heteroaryl which is selected from the class consisting of phenyl, naphthyl, indolyl, thiophenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, furyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, imidazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxadiazolyl, triazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyridazinyl, pyrazinyl, triazinyl, indolizinyl, isoindolyl, benzo[b]furanyl, benzo[b]thiophenyl, indazolyl, benzthiazolyl, benzimidazolyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, purinyl, quinolizinyl, cinnolinyl, phtalaninyl, quinoxalinyl, naphthyridinyl, pteridinyl and quinazolinyl, wherein one or more hydrogen atoms of said aryl or heteroaryl group are optionally and independently replaced with:

(i) alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms,

(ii) -COOH,

(iii) -SO₂OH,

(iv) -PO(OH)₂,

(v) a group of the formula -COOR³⁶, wherein R³⁶ is straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 5 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 5 carbon atoms,

(vi) a group of the formula -NR³⁷R³⁸, wherein R³⁷ and R³⁸ are each, independently, a hydrogen atom, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms or acyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, or wherein R³⁷ and R³⁸ constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring,

(vii) a group of the formula -CONR³⁹R⁴⁰, wherein R³⁹ and R⁴⁰ are each, independently, a hydrogen atom, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or wherein R³⁹ and R⁴⁰ constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring, and wherein

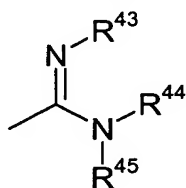
one carbon atom in said hydrocarbon bridge is optionally replaced by
-O-, -S-, S(O)-, SO₂-, -NH-, or -NMe-,

(viii) a group of the formula -OR⁴¹, wherein R⁴¹ is a hydrogen atom, or an
alkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms,

5 (ix) a group of the formula -SR⁴², wherein R⁴² is a hydrogen atom, or an
alkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms,

(x) -CN, or

(xi) an amidino group of the formula



10 wherein R⁴³, R⁴⁴ and R⁴⁵ are each, independently, a hydrogen atom or
alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms, and wherein two of R⁴³, R⁴⁴ and R⁴⁵ may
additionally constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon
atoms which together with the nitrogen atom(s) between them form a
heterocyclic ring,

15 (H) groups of the formula -NR⁴⁶R⁴⁷, wherein R⁴⁶ and R⁴⁷ are each
independently a hydrogen atom, phenyl which is optionally mono-or
polysubstituted with halogen, or R¹⁰⁰, wherein R¹⁰⁰ is as hereinbefore
defined,

(I) saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic groups consisting of 3 to 7 ring atoms
20 selected from N, O, C and S, or bicyclic heterocyclic groups consisting of 8 to
11 atoms selected from N, O, C and S, including but not limited to
imidazoliny, imidazolidiny, pyrroliny, pyrrolidiny, piperidiny, piperaziny,
morpholiny, thiomorpholiny, thiazolidiny, azepiny, tetrahydropyrany,
tetrahydrofurany, benzodioxoly, tetrahydrothiopheny and sulfolany, wherein
25 said heterocyclic group is optionally mono- or poly-substituted with moieties
selected from the class consisting of:

(i) oxo,

(ii) -OR¹⁰¹, wherein R¹⁰¹ is:

- (a) a hydrogen atom,
- (b) alkyl of 1 to 7 carbons, wherein any hydrogen atom of said alkyl group is optionally replaced with -OH, -OR¹¹⁰ (wherein R¹¹⁰ is an alkyl moiety of 1 to 6 carbon atoms), -NH₂, -NHMe or -NMe₂,
- (c) acyl of 1 to 7 carbons, wherein any hydrogen atom of said acyl group is optionally replaced with -OH, -OR¹¹¹ (wherein R¹¹¹ is an alkyl moiety of 1 to 6 carbon atoms), -NH₂, -NHMe or -NMe₂,
- (d) -CONR¹⁰²R¹⁰³, wherein R¹⁰² and R¹⁰³ are each independently a hydrogen atom or alkyl of 1 to 7 atoms, or wherein R¹⁰² and R¹⁰³ constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring, and wherein one carbon atom in said hydrocarbon bridge is optionally replaced by -O-, -S-, S(O)-, SO₂-, -NH-, or -NMe-, or
- (e) -COOR¹⁰⁴, wherein R¹⁰⁴ is alkyl of 1 to 7 atoms,

(iii) -CONR¹⁰⁵R¹⁰⁶, wherein R¹⁰⁵ and R¹⁰⁶ are each independently:

- (a) a hydrogen atom,
- (b) straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 7 atoms,
- (c) benzoyl,
- (d) benzyl or
- (e) phenyl, wherein said phenyl ring is optionally mono- or polysubstituted with -OR¹¹², wherein R¹¹² is alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

or, wherein R¹⁰⁵ and R¹⁰⁶ constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring, and wherein one carbon atom in said

hydrocarbon bridge is optionally replaced by -O-, -S-, S(O)-, SO₂-,
-NH-, or -NMe-,

(iv) -COOR¹⁰⁷, wherein R¹⁰⁷ is a hydrogen atom, or straight or branched
alkyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms ,

5 (v) straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, alkenyl or alkynyl of 2
to 7 carbon atoms, or cycloalkyl of 3 to 7 carbons, wherein one or more
hydrogen atoms of said alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl or cycloalkyl group is
optionally replaced with a moiety independently selected from the class
consisting of:

10 (a) oxo,

(b) -OH,

(c) -OR¹¹³, wherein R¹¹³ is alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

(d) -OCOCH₃,

(e) -NH₂,

15 (f) -NHMe,

(g) -NMe₂,

(h) -CO₂H, and

(i) -CO₂ R¹¹⁴ wherein R¹¹⁴ is alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms, or
cycloalkyl of 3 to 7 carbons,

20 (vi) acyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, which may be straight, branched or cyclic,
and wherein one or more hydrogen atoms of said acyl group is optionally
replaced with a moiety independently selected from the class consisting
of:

(a) -OH,

25 (b) -OR¹¹⁵, wherein R¹¹⁵ is alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

(c) -NH₂,

(d) -NHMe,

(e) -NMe₂,

(f) -NHCOMe,

30 (g) oxo,

- (h) $-\text{CO}_2 \text{R}^{116}$, wherein R^{116} is alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms,
- (i) $-\text{CN}$,
- (j) the halogen atoms,
- (k) heterocycles selected from the class consisting of imidazoliny, imidazolidiny, pyrroliny, pyrrolidiny, piperidiny, piperaziny, morpholiny, thiomorpholiny, thiazolidiny, azepiny, tetrahydropyrany, tetrahydrofurany, benzodioxoly, tetrahydrothiopheny and sulfolany, and
- (l) aryl or heteroaryl selected from the class consisting of phenyl, naphthyl, indoly, thiopheny, pyridyl, pyrimidiny, furyl, pyrroly, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, imidazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxadiazolyl, triazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyridaziny, pyraziny, triaziny, indoliziny, isoindoly, benzo[b]furany, benzo[b]thiopheny, indazolyl, benzthiazolyl, benzimidazolyl, quinoliny, isoquinoliny, puriny, quinoliziny, cinnoliny, pthalaniny, quinoxaliny, naphthyridiny, pteridiny and quinazoliny,
- (vii) $-\text{SO}_2\text{R}^{108}$, wherein R^{108} is:
 - (a) aryl or heteroaryl which is selected from the group consisting of phenyl, naphthyl, indoly, thiopheny, pyridyl, pyrimidiny, furyl, pyrroly, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, imidazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxadiazolyl, triazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyridaziny, pyraziny, triaziny, indoliziny, isoindoly, benzo[b]furany, benzo[b]thiopheny, indazolyl, benzthiazolyl, benzimidazolyl, quinoliny, isoquinoliny, puriny, quinoliziny, cinnoliny, pthalaniny, quinoxaliny, naphthyridiny, pteridiny and quinazoliny, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl moiety is optionally substituted with one or more moieties selected from the class consisting of the halogen atoms, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, and $-\text{OR}^{117}$ (wherein R^{117} is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms),

- 5 (b) a heterocyclic group selected from the class consisting of
imidazoliny, imidazolidiny, pyrroliny, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl,
piperazinyl, morpholiny, thiomorpholiny, thiazolidiny, azepiny,
tetrahydropyrany, tetrahydrofurany, benzodioxoly,
tetrahydrothiophenyl and sulfolany, wherein said heterocyclic
group is optionally substituted with one or more moieties selected
from the class consisting of the halogen atoms, straight or branched
alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, and -OR¹¹⁸ (wherein R¹¹⁸ is hydrogen or
alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms), or
- 10 (c) straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 atoms, wherein said alkyl
moiety is optionally substituted with one or more moieties selected
from the class consisting of the halogen atoms, straight or branched
alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, and -OR¹¹⁹ (wherein R¹¹⁹ is hydrogen or
alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms),
- 15 (viii) -COR¹⁰⁹, wherein R¹⁰⁹ is:
- (a) aryl or heteroaryl which is selected from the class consisting of
phenyl, naphthyl, indolyl, thiophenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, furyl,
pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, imidazolyl,
isothiazolyl, oxadiazolyl, triazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyridazinyl,
20 pyrazinyl, triazinyl, indoliziny, isoindolyl, benzo[b]furany,
benzo[b]thiophenyl, indazolyl, benzthiazolyl, benzimidazolyl,
quinoliny, isoquinoliny, puriny, quinoliziny, cinnoliny,
phtalaniny, quinoxaliny, naphthyridiny, pteridiny and
quinazoliny, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl moiety is optionally
25 substituted with one or more moieties selected from the class
consisting of the halogen atoms, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6
carbons, and -OR¹²⁰ (wherein R¹²⁰ is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6
carbon atoms),
- 30 (b) a heterocyclic group selected from the class consisting of
imidazoliny, imidazolidiny, pyrroliny, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl,

- 5 piperazinyl, morpholinyl, thiomorpholinyl, thiazolidinyl, azepinyl, tetrahydropyranyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, benzodioxolyl, tetrahydrothiophenyl and sulfolanyl, wherein said heterocyclyl is optionally substituted with one or more halogen, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, or -OR¹²¹ (wherein R¹²¹ is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms), or
- 10 (c) straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 atoms, wherein said alkyl moiety is optionally substituted with one or more moieties selected from the class consisting of the halogen atoms, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, and -OR¹²² (wherein R¹²² is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms),
- (ix) -CHO,
- (x) the halogen atoms, and
- 15 (xi) aryl or heteroaryl which is selected from the class consisting of phenyl, naphthyl, indolyl, thiophenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, furyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, imidazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxadiazolyl, triazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyridazinyl, pyrazinyl, triazinyl, indolizinyl, isoindolyl, benzo[b]furanyl, benzo[b]thiophenyl, indazolyl, benzthiazolyl, benzimidazolyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, purinyl,
- 20 quinolizinyl, cinnolinyl, pthalaninyl, quinoxalinyl, naphthyridinyl, pteridinyl and quinazolinyl,
- (J) the halogen atoms, and
- (K) -CN and,
- wherein R^{1a} is R¹⁰⁰;
- 25 X is an oxygen or sulfur atom;
- R³ is:
- (A) a hydrogen atom, or
- (B) branched or unbranched alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 5 carbon atoms wherein said alkyl or cycloalkyl group is optionally substituted
- 30 with:

- (i) a group of the formula $-OR^{48}$, wherein R^{48} is a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, or
- (ii) a group of the formula $-NR^{49}R^{50}$, wherein R^{49} and R^{50} are each, independently, a hydrogen atom, alkyl of 1 to 2 carbon atoms, or acyl of 1 to 2 carbon atoms;

R^4 is a group of the formula $-(CR^{51}R^{52})_x(CR^{53}R^{54})_yR^{55}$, wherein,

x is 0 or 1,

y is 0 or 1,

R^{51} , R^{52} and R^{53} are each, independently:

- (A) a hydrogen atom,
- (B) a group of the formula $-OR^{56}$, wherein R^{56} is a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, or
- (C) branched or unbranched alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 5 carbon atoms,

R^{54} is:

- (A) a group of the formula R^{57} , wherein R^{57} is independently selected from the same class as is R^1 , or
- (B) a group of the formula $-OR^{58}$, wherein R^{58} is independently selected from the same class as is R^1 ;

R^{55} is:

aryl or heteroaryl which is selected from the class consisting of phenyl, naphthyl, indolyl, thiophenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, furyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, imidazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxadiazolyl, triazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyridazinyl, pyrazinyl, triazinyl, indolizinyl, isoindolyl, benzo[b]furanyl, benzo[b]thiophenyl, indazolyl, benzthiazolyl, benzimidazolyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, purinyl, quinolizinyl, cinnolinyl, phtalaninyl, quinoxalinyl, naphthyridinyl, pteridinyl and quinazolinyl, wherein one or more of the hydrogen atoms of said aryl or heteroaryl group is optionally and independently replaced with:

(A) R⁵⁹, which is aryl or heteroaryl selected from the class consisting of phenyl, naphthyl, indolyl, thiophenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, furyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, imidazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxadiazolyl, triazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyridazinyl, pyrazinyl, triazinyl, indolizinyl, isoindolyl, benzo[b]furanyl, benzo[b]thiophenyl, indazolyl, benzthiazolyl, benzimidazolyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, purinyl, quinolizinyl, cinnolyl, pthalaninyl, quinoxalinyl, naphthyridinyl, pteridinyl and quinazolinyl, wherein one or more of the hydrogen atoms of said aryl or heteroaryl group is optionally and independently replaced with:

- (i) branched or unbranched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms, which alkyl or cycloalkyl group is optionally mono- or polysubstituted with halogen or oxo,
- (ii) a group of the formula –COOR⁶⁰, wherein R⁶⁰ is straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 5 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 5 carbon atoms,
- (iii) a group of the formula –NR⁶¹R⁶², wherein R⁶¹ and R⁶² are each, independently, a hydrogen atom, alkyl or fluoroalkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms or acyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, or wherein R⁶¹ and R⁶² constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring,
- (iv) a group of the formula –CONR⁶³R⁶⁴, wherein R⁶³ and R⁶⁴ are each, independently, a hydrogen atom, alkyl or fluoroalkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or wherein R⁶³ and R⁶⁴ constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring,
- (v) a group of the formula –OR⁶⁵, wherein R⁶⁵ is a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl, fluoroalkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms,

- (vi) a group of the formula $-SR^{66}$, wherein R^{66} is a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl, fluoroalkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms,
- (vii) $-CN$,
- (viii) nitro, or
- 5 (ix) halogen,
- (B) methyl, which is optionally mono- or polysubstituted with fluorine atoms and additionally is optionally monosubstituted with R^{59} ,
- (C) branched or unbranched alkyl of 2 to 6 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms, which alkyl or cycloalkyl group is optionally mono- or polysubstituted with halogen or oxo,
- 10 (D) a group of the formula $-COOR^{67}$, wherein R^{67} is straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 5 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 5 carbon atoms,
- (E) a group of the formula $-NR^{68}R^{69}$, wherein R^{68} and R^{69} are each, independently, a hydrogen atom, alkyl or fluoroalkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms or acyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms,
- 15 or wherein R^{68} and R^{69} constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring, and wherein one of R^{68} and R^{69} may additionally be the group R^{59} ,
- (F) a group of the formula $-CONR^{70}R^{71}$, wherein R^{70} and R^{71} are each, independently, a hydrogen atom, alkyl or fluoroalkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or wherein R^{70} and R^{71} constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring,
- 20 and wherein one of R^{70} and R^{71} may additionally be the group R^{59} ,
- (G) a group of the formula $-COR^{72}$, wherein R^{72} is a hydrogen atom, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 5 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl of 3 to 5 carbon atoms or R^{59} ,
- 25

(H) a group of the formula $-OR^{73}$, wherein R^{73} is a hydrogen atom, an alkyl, fluoroalkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, or R^{59} ,

(I) a group of the formula $-SR^{74}$, wherein R^{74} is a hydrogen atom, an alkyl, fluoroalkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, or R^{59} ,

5 (J) $-CN$,

(K) nitro, or

(L) halogen;

R^5 is Cl or trifluoromethyl;

10 Z is $=N-$ or $=C(R^6)-$ wherein R^6 is a hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine atom, methyl or trifluoromethyl; and,

R^7 is a hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine atom, methyl, $-CN$, nitro or trifluoromethyl, with the condition that when Z is $=N-$ or $=C(H)-$, R^7 is chlorine, trifluoromethyl, $-CN$ or nitro;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

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2. A compound of the formula I, as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

A^1 is $=N-$ or $=C(H)-$;

20 A^2 is $=N-$, $=C(H)-$, or $=C(R')-$ wherein R' is halogen, $-CN$, $-Oalkyl$, $-CO_2alkyl$ or $-SO_2alkyl$, wherein the foregoing alkyl moieties are of 1 to 3 carbon atoms;

D is $=N-$, $=C(R^1)-$, $=C(H)-$, $=C(SO_2R^1)-$, $=C(S(O)R^1)-$, $=C(C(O)R^1)-$, $=C(C(O)H)-$, $=C(SR^{1a})-$, $=C(OR^{1a})-$ or $=C(NHR^{1a})-$,

wherein R^1 is selected from the class consisting of:

(A) $-R^{100a}$, which is:

25 branched or unbranched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkenyl of 2 to 6 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl or cycloalkenyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms, in which alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl or cycloalkenyl group one or more hydrogen atoms are optionally and independently replaced with:

(i) halogen,

(ii) oxo,

(iii) aryl or heteroaryl which is selected from the class consisting of phenyl, naphthyl, indolyl, thiophenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, furyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, imidazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxadiazolyl, triazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyridazinyl, pyrazinyl, triazinyl, indolizyl, isoindolyl, benzo[b]furanyl, benzo[b]thiophenyl, indazolyl, benzthiazolyl, benzimidazolyl, quinolynyl, isoquinolynyl, purinyl, quinolizynyl, cinnolynyl, pthalanynyl, quinoxalynyl, naphthyridinyl, pteridinyl and quinazolinyl, wherein one or more hydrogen atoms of said aryl or heteroaryl group are optionally and independently replaced with:

(a) alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms,

(b) -COOH,

(c) -SO₂OH,

(d) -PO(OH)₂,

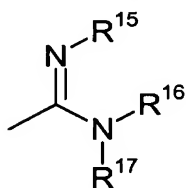
(e) a group of the formula -COOR⁸, wherein R⁸ is straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 5 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 5 carbon atoms,

(f) a group of the formula -NR⁹R¹⁰, wherein R⁹ and R¹⁰ are each independently a hydrogen atom, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms or acyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, or wherein R⁹ and R¹⁰ constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring,

(g) a group of the formula -CONR¹¹R¹², wherein R¹¹ and R¹² are each independently a hydrogen atom, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or wherein R¹¹ and R¹² constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring, and wherein one carbon atom in said

hydrocarbon bridge is optionally replaced by -O-, -S-, S(O)-, SO₂-, -NH-, or -NMe-,

- (h) a group of the formula -OR¹³, wherein R¹³ is a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms,
- (i) a group of the formula -SR¹⁴, wherein R¹⁴ is a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms,
- (j) -CN, or
- (k) an amidino group of the formula



wherein R¹⁵, R¹⁶ and R¹⁷ are each, independently, a hydrogen atom or alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms and wherein two of R¹⁵, R¹⁶ and R¹⁷ may additionally constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom(s) between them form a heterocyclic ring,

- (l) halogen,
- (m) a group of the formula -NHCONHalkyl, wherein the alkyl moiety contains 1 to 3 carbon atoms,
- (n) a group of the formula -NHCOOalkyl, wherein the alkyl moiety contains 1 to 3 carbon atoms,

(iv) a group of the formula -COOR¹⁸, wherein R¹⁸ is straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms,

(v) -CN,

(vi) a group of the formula -CONR¹⁹R²⁰, wherein R¹⁹ and R²⁰ are each, independently, a hydrogen atom, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms or

cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or wherein R¹⁹ and R²⁰ constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring, and wherein

one carbon atom in said hydrocarbon bridge is optionally replaced by
-O-, -S-, S(O)-, SO₂-, -NH-, or -NMe-,

(vii) a group of the formula -OR²¹, wherein R²¹ is a hydrogen atom, or a
straight or branched alkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, wherein
one or more hydrogen atoms of said alkyl or acyl group are optionally
replaced with a group independently selected from the class consisting of
-OH, -Oalkyl (wherein the alkyl moiety contains 1 to 6 carbon atoms),
-NH₂, -NHMe and -NMe₂,

(viii) a group of the formula -SR²², wherein R²² is a hydrogen atom, or an
alkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, wherein one or more
hydrogen atoms of said alkyl or acyl group are optionally replaced with a
group independently selected from the class consisting of -OH, -Oalkyl (wherein the alkyl moiety is 1 to 6 carbon atoms), -NH₂, -NHMe and -NMe₂,

(ix) a group of the formula -NR²³R²⁴, wherein R²³ and R²⁴ are each,
independently,

(a) a hydrogen atom,

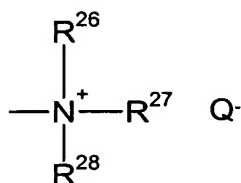
(b) straight or branched alkyl or acyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms or
cycloalkyl of 3 to 7 carbon atoms, wherein said one or more
hydrogen atoms of said alkyl or acyl group are optionally replaced
with a group independently selected from the class consisting of
-OH, -Oalkyl (wherein the alkyl moiety is 1 to 6 carbon atoms),
-NH₂, -NHMe and -NMe₂,

(c) a group of the formula -(CH₂)_mCOOH, wherein m is 0, 1 or 2,

(d) a group of the formula -(CH₂)_nCOOR²⁵, wherein n is 0, 1 or 2, and
wherein R²⁵ is straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or

(e) a group of the formula -(CH₂)_nCONHR²⁵, wherein n is 0, 1 or 2,
and wherein R²⁵ is straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon
atoms,

(x) a quaternary group of the formula



wherein R²⁶, R²⁷ and R²⁸ are each, independently, a branched or unbranched alkyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms and Q⁻ is a pharmaceutically acceptable counter ion,

(xi) a saturated, or partially unsaturated heterocyclic group consisting of 3 to 7 ring atoms selected from N, O, C and S, including but not limited to imidazoliny, imidazolidiny, pyrroliny, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, morpholiny, thiomorpholiny, thiazolidiny, azepiny, tetrahydropyrany, tetrahydrofurany, benzodioxoly, tetrahydrothiophenyl and sulfolany, wherein said heterocyclic group is optionally mono- or polysubstituted with oxo, and

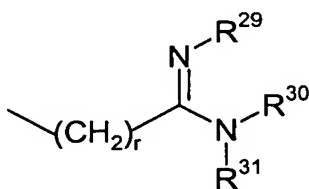
(xii) a cycloalkyl group of 3 to 7 carbon atoms,

(B) branched or unbranched carboxylic acid groups of 3 to 6 carbon atoms,

(C) branched or unbranched phosphonic acid groups of 2 to 6 carbon atoms,

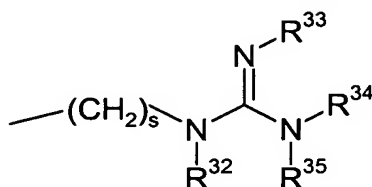
(D) branched or unbranched sulfonic acid groups of 2 to 6 carbon atoms,

(E) amidino groups of the formula



wherein r is 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6, and R²⁹, R³⁰ and R³¹ are each, independently, a hydrogen atom or alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms, and wherein two of R²⁹, R³⁰ and R³¹ may additionally constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom(s) between them form a heterocyclic ring,

(F) guanidino groups of the formula



wherein s is 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6, and R³², R³³, R³⁴ and R³⁵ are each, independently, a hydrogen atom or alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms, and wherein two of R³², R³³, R³⁴ and R³⁵ may additionally constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom(s) between them form a heterocyclic ring,

(G) aryl or heteroaryl which is selected from the class consisting of phenyl, naphthyl, indolyl, thiophenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, furyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, imidazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxadiazolyl, triazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyridazinyl, pyrazinyl, triazinyl, indolizinyl, isoindolyl, benzo[b]furanyl, benzo[b]thiophenyl, indazolyl, benzthiazolyl, benzimidazolyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, purinyl, quinolizinyl, cinnolinyl, phtalaninyl, quinoxalinyl, naphthyridinyl, pteridinyl and quinazolinyl, wherein one or more hydrogen atoms of said aryl or heteroaryl group are optionally and independently replaced with:

(i) alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms,

(ii) -COOH,

(iii) -SO₂OH,

(iv) -PO(OH)₂,

(v) a group of the formula -COOR³⁶, wherein R³⁶ is straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 5 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 5 carbon atoms,

(vi) a group of the formula -NR³⁷R³⁸, wherein R³⁷ and R³⁸ are each, independently, a hydrogen atom, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms or acyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, or wherein R³⁷ and R³⁸ constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms

which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring,

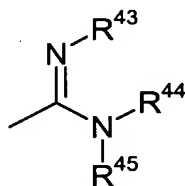
(vii) a group of the formula $-\text{CONR}^{39}\text{R}^{40}$, wherein R^{39} and R^{40} are each, independently, a hydrogen atom, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or wherein R^{39} and R^{40} constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring, and wherein one carbon atom in said hydrocarbon bridge is optionally replaced by $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{S}-$, $\text{S}(\text{O})-$, SO_2- , $-\text{NH}-$, or $-\text{NMe}-$,

(viii) a group of the formula $-\text{OR}^{41}$, wherein R^{41} is a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms,

(ix) a group of the formula $-\text{SR}^{42}$, wherein R^{42} is a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms,

(x) $-\text{CN}$, or

(xi) an amidino group of the formula



wherein R^{43} , R^{44} and R^{45} are each, independently, a hydrogen atom or alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms, and wherein two of R^{43} , R^{44} and R^{45} may additionally constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom(s) between them form a heterocyclic ring,

(H) groups of the formula $-\text{NR}^{46}\text{R}^{47}$, wherein R^{46} and R^{47} are each independently a hydrogen atom, phenyl which is optionally mono- or polysubstituted with halogen, or R^{100a} , wherein R^{100a} is as hereinbefore defined,

(I) saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic groups consisting of 3 to 7 ring atoms selected from N, O, C and S, or bicyclic heterocyclic groups consisting of 8 to

11 atoms selected from N, O, C and S, including but not limited to imidazoliny, imidazolidiny, pyrroliny, pyrrolidiny, piperidiny, piperaziny, morpholiny, thiomorpholiny, thiazolidiny, azepiny, tetrahydropyrany, tetrahydrofurany, benzodioxoly, tetrahydrothiopheny and sulfolany, wherein said heterocyclic group is optionally mono- or poly-substituted with moieties independently selected from the class consisting of:

- (i) oxo,
- (ii) $-OR^{101}$, wherein R^{101} is:
 - (a) a hydrogen atom,
 - (b) alkyl of 1 to 7 carbons, wherein any hydrogen atom of said alkyl group is optionally replaced with $-OH$, $-OR^{110}$ (wherein R^{110} is an alkyl moiety of 1 to 6 carbon atoms), $-NH_2$, $-NHMe$ or $-NMe_2$,
 - (c) acyl of 1 to 7 carbons, wherein any hydrogen atom of said acyl group is optionally replaced with $-OH$, $-OR^{111}$ (wherein R^{111} is an alkyl moiety of 1 to 6 carbon atoms), $-NH_2$, $-NHMe$ or $-NMe_2$,
 - (d) $-CONR^{102}R^{103}$, wherein R^{102} and R^{103} are each independently a hydrogen atom or alkyl of 1 to 7 atoms, or wherein R^{102} and R^{103} constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring, and wherein one carbon atom in said hydrocarbon bridge is optionally replaced by $-O-$, $-S-$, $S(O)-$, SO_2- , $-NH-$, or $-NMe-$, or
 - (e) $-COOR^{104}$, wherein R^{104} is alkyl of 1 to 7 atoms,
- (iii) $-CONR^{105}R^{106}$, wherein R^{105} and R^{106} are each independently:
 - (a) a hydrogen atom,
 - (b) straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 7 atoms,
 - (c) benzoyl,
 - (d) benzyl or

(e) phenyl, wherein said phenyl ring is optionally mono- or polysubstituted with -OR¹¹², wherein R¹¹² is alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

or, wherein R¹⁰⁵ and R¹⁰⁶ constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring, and wherein one carbon atom in said hydrocarbon bridge is optionally replaced by -O-, -S-, S(O)-, SO₂-, -NH-, or -NMe-,

(iv) -COOR¹⁰⁷, wherein R¹⁰⁷ is a hydrogen atom, or straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms ,

(v) straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, alkenyl or alkynyl of 2 to 7 carbon atoms, or cycloalkyl of 3 to 7 carbons, wherein one or more hydrogen atoms of said alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl or cycloalkyl group is optionally replaced with a moiety independently selected from the class consisting of:

(a) oxo,

(b) -OH,

(c) -OR¹¹³, wherein R¹¹³ is alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

(d) -OCOCH₃,

(e) -NH₂,

(f) -NHMe,

(g) -NMe₂,

(h) -CO₂H, and

(i) -CO₂ R¹¹⁴ wherein R¹¹⁴ is alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms, or cycloalkyl of 3 to 7 carbons,

(vi) acyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, which may be straight, branched or cyclic, and wherein one or more hydrogen atoms of said acyl group is optionally replaced with a moiety independently selected from the class consisting of:

(a) -OH,

- 5
- (b) -OR¹¹⁵, wherein R¹¹⁵ is alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms,
 - (c) -NH₂,
 - (d) -NHMe,
 - (e) -NMe₂,
 - (f) -NHCOMe,
 - (g) oxo,
 - (h) -CO₂ R¹¹⁶, wherein R¹¹⁶ is alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms,
 - (i) -CN,
 - (j) the halogen atoms,
 - 10 (k) heterocycles selected from the class consisting of imidazoliny, imidazolidiny, pyrroliny, pyrrolidiny, piperidiny, piperaziny, morpholiny, thiomorpholiny, thiazolidiny, azepiny, tetrahydropyrany, tetrahydrofurany, benzodioxoly, tetrahydrothiopheny and sulfolany, and
 - 15 (l) aryl or heteroaryl selected from the class consisting of phenyl, naphthyl, indoly, thiopheny, pyridyl, pyrimidiny, furyl, pyrroly, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, imidazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxadiazolyl, triazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyridaziny, pyraziny, triaziny, indolyziny, isoindoly, benzo[b]furany, benzo[b]thiopheny,
 - 20 indazolyl, benzthiazolyl, benzimidazolyl, quinoliny, isoquinoliny, puriny, quinoliziny, cinnoliny, pthalaniny, quinoxaliny, naphthyridiny, pteridiny and quinazoliny,
- (vii) -SO₂R¹⁰⁸, wherein R¹⁰⁸ is:
- 25 (a) aryl or heteroaryl which is selected from the group consisting of phenyl, naphthyl, indoly, thiopheny, pyridyl, pyrimidiny, furyl, pyrroly, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, imidazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxadiazolyl, triazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyridaziny, pyraziny, triaziny, indolyziny, isoindoly, benzo[b]furany, benzo[b]thiopheny, indazolyl, benzthiazolyl, benzimidazolyl,
 - 30 quinoliny, isoquinoliny, puriny, quinoliziny, cinnoliny, pthalaniny, quinoxaliny, naphthyridiny, pteridiny and

quinazolinyl, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl moiety is optionally substituted with one or more moieties selected from the class consisting of the halogen atoms, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, and -OR¹¹⁷ (wherein R¹¹⁷ is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms),

(b) a heterocyclic group selected from the class consisting of imidazolinyl, imidazolidinyl, pyrrolinyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, morpholinyl, thiomorpholinyl, thiazolidinyl, azepinyl, tetrahydropyranyl, tetrahydrofuranlyl, benzodioxolyl, tetrahydrothiophenyl and sulfolanyl, wherein said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted with one or more moieties selected from the class consisting of the halogen atoms, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, and -OR¹¹⁸ (wherein R¹¹⁸ is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms), or

(c) straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 atoms, wherein said alkyl moiety is optionally substituted with one or more moieties selected from the class consisting of the halogen atoms, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, and -OR¹¹⁹ (wherein R¹¹⁹ is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms),

(viii) -COR¹⁰⁹, wherein R¹⁰⁹ is:

(a) aryl or heteroaryl which is selected from the class consisting of phenyl, naphthyl, indolyl, thiophenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, furyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, imidazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxadiazolyl, triazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyridazinyl, pyrazinyl, triazinyl, indolizinyl, isoindolyl, benzo[b]furanyl, benzo[b]thiophenyl, indazolyl, benzthiazolyl, benzimidazolyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, purinyl, quinolizinyl, cinnolinyl, pthalaninyl, quinoxalinyl, naphthyridinyl, pteridinyl and quinazolinyl, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl moiety is optionally substituted with one or more moieties selected from the class

consisting of the halogen atoms, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, and -OR¹²⁰ (wherein R¹²⁰ is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms),

- (b) a heterocyclic group selected from the class consisting of imidazoliny, imidazolidiny, pyrroliny, pyrrolidiny, piperidiny, piperaziny, morpholiny, thiomorpholiny, thiazolidiny, azepiny, tetrahydropyrany, tetrahydrofurany, benzodioxoly, tetrahydrothiopheny and sulfolany, wherein said heterocyclyl is optionally substituted with one or more halogen, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, or -OR¹²¹ (wherein R¹²¹ is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms), or
- (c) straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 atoms, wherein said alkyl moiety is optionally substituted with one or more moieties selected from the class consisting of the halogen atoms, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, and -OR¹²² (wherein R¹²² is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms),

(ix) -CHO,

(x) the halogen atoms, and

(xi) aryl or heteroaryl which is selected from the class consisting of phenyl, naphthyl, indolyl, thiophenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, furyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, imidazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxadiazolyl, triazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyridazinyl, pyrazinyl, triazinyl, indolizinyl, isoindolyl, benzo[b]furany, benzo[b]thiophenyl, indazolyl, benzthiazolyl, benzimidazolyl, quinoliny, isoquinoliny, puriny, quinoliziny, cinnoliny, pthalaniny, quinoxaliny, naphthyridiny, pteridiny and quinazolinyl,

(J) the halogen atoms, and

(K) -CN and,

wherein R^{1a} is R^{100a};

X is an oxygen or sulfur atom;

R³ is:

- (A) a hydrogen atom, or
- (B) branched or unbranched alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 5 carbon atoms wherein said alkyl or cycloalkyl group is optionally substituted with:

- (i) a group of the formula –OR⁴⁸, wherein R⁴⁸ is a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, or
- (ii) a group of the formula –NR⁴⁹R⁵⁰, wherein R⁴⁹ and R⁵⁰ are each, independently, a hydrogen atom, alkyl of 1 to 2 carbon atoms, or acyl of 1 to 2 carbon atoms;

R⁴ is a group of the formula –CH₂R⁵⁵, wherein,

R⁵⁵ is:

aryl or heteroaryl which is selected from the class consisting of phenyl, naphthyl, indolyl, thiophenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, furyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, imidazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxadiazolyl, triazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyridazinyl, pyrazinyl, triazinyl, indolizinyl, isoindolyl, benzo[b]furanyl, benzo[b]thiophenyl, indazolyl, benzthiazolyl, benzimidazolyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, purinyl, quinolizinyl, cinnolinyl, pthalaninyl, quinoxalinyl, naphthyridinyl, pteridinyl and quinazolinyl, wherein one or more of the hydrogen atoms of said aryl or heteroaryl group is optionally and independently replaced with:

- (A) R^{59a}, which is aryl or heteroaryl selected from the class consisting of phenyl, naphthyl, indolyl, thiophenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, furyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, imidazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxadiazolyl, triazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyridazinyl, pyrazinyl, triazinyl, indolizinyl, isoindolyl, benzo[b]furanyl, benzo[b]thiophenyl, indazolyl, benzthiazolyl, benzimidazolyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, purinyl, quinolizinyl, cinnolinyl, pthalaninyl, quinoxalinyl, naphthyridinyl, pteridinyl and quinazolinyl, wherein one or more of the hydrogen atoms

of said aryl or heteroaryl group is optionally and independently replaced with:

- 5
- (i) branched or unbranched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms, which alkyl or cycloalkyl group is optionally mono- or polysubstituted with halogen or oxo,
- (ii) a group of the formula $-\text{COOR}^{60}$, wherein R^{60} is straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 5 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 5 carbon atoms,
- 10 (iii) a group of the formula $-\text{NR}^{61}\text{R}^{62}$, wherein R^{61} and R^{62} are each, independently, a hydrogen atom, alkyl or fluoroalkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms or acyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, or wherein R^{61} and R^{62} constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring,
- 15 (iv) a group of the formula $-\text{CONR}^{63}\text{R}^{64}$, wherein R^{63} and R^{64} are each, independently, a hydrogen atom, alkyl or fluoroalkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or wherein R^{63} and R^{64} constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring,
- 20 (v) a group of the formula $-\text{OR}^{65}$, wherein R^{65} is a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl, fluoroalkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms,
- (vi) a group of the formula $-\text{SR}^{66}$, wherein R^{66} is a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl, fluoroalkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms,
- 25 (vii) $-\text{CN}$,
- (viii) nitro, or
- (ix) halogen,
- (B) methyl, which is optionally mono- or polysubstituted with fluorine atoms and additionally is optionally monosubstituted with R^{59a} ,

- (C) branched or unbranched alkyl of 2 to 6 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms, which alkyl or cycloalkyl group is optionally mono- or polysubstituted with halogen or oxo,
- (D) a group of the formula $-\text{COOR}^{67}$, wherein R^{67} is straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 5 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 5 carbon atoms,
- (E) a group of the formula $-\text{NR}^{68}\text{R}^{69}$, wherein R^{68} and R^{69} are each, independently, a hydrogen atom, alkyl or fluoroalkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms or acyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, or wherein R^{68} and R^{69} constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring, and wherein one of R^{68} and R^{69} may additionally be the group R^{59a} ,
- (F) a group of the formula $-\text{CONR}^{70}\text{R}^{71}$, wherein R^{70} and R^{71} are each, independently, a hydrogen atom, alkyl or fluoroalkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or wherein R^{70} and R^{71} constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring, and wherein one of R^{70} and R^{71} may additionally be the group R^{59a} ,
- (G) a group of the formula $-\text{COR}^{72}$, wherein R^{72} is a hydrogen atom, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 5 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl of 3 to 5 carbon atoms or R^{59a} ,
- (H) a group of the formula $-\text{OR}^{73}$, wherein R^{73} is a hydrogen atom, an alkyl, fluoroalkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, or R^{59a} ,
- (I) a group of the formula $-\text{SR}^{74}$, wherein R^{74} is a hydrogen atom, an alkyl, fluoroalkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, or R^{59a} ,
- (J) $-\text{CN}$,
- (K) nitro, or
- (L) halogen;

R^5 is Cl or trifluoromethyl;

Z is =N- or =C(R⁶)- wherein R⁶ is a hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine atom, methyl or trifluoromethyl; and,

R⁷ is a hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine atom, methyl, -CN, nitro or trifluoromethyl, with the condition that when Z is =N- or =C(H)-, R⁷ is chlorine, trifluoromethyl, -CN or nitro;

5 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. A compound of the formula I, as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

A¹ is =N- or =C(H)-;

A² is =N-, or =C(H)-;

D is =N-, =C(R¹)-, =C(H)-, =C(SO₂R¹)-, =C(C(O)H)- or =C(C(O)R¹)-, wherein R¹ is
5 selected from the class consisting of:

(A) -R^{100b}, which is:

branched or unbranched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkenyl of 2 to 6 carbon
atoms or cycloalkyl or cycloalkenyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms, in which alkyl,
alkenyl, cycloalkyl or cycloalkenyl group one or more hydrogen atoms are
10 optionally and independently replaced with:

(i) oxo,

(ii) phenyl, wherein one hydrogen atom of said phenyl group is optionally
replaced with:

(a) alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms,

(b) -COOH,

(c) -SO₂OH,

(d) -PO(OH)₂,

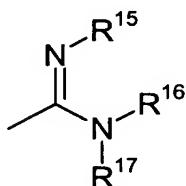
(e) a group of the formula -COOR⁸, wherein R⁸ is straight or
branched alkyl of 1 to 5 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 5
20 carbon atoms,

(f) a group of the formula -NR⁹R¹⁰, wherein R⁹ and R¹⁰ are each
independently a hydrogen atom, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms,
cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms or acyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, or
wherein R⁹ and R¹⁰ constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3
25 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between
them form a heterocyclic ring,

(g) a group of the formula -CONR¹¹R¹², wherein R¹¹ and R¹² are
each independently a hydrogen atom, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms
or cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or wherein R¹¹ and R¹²

constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring, and wherein one carbon atom in said hydrocarbon bridge is optionally replaced by –O–, –NH–, or –NMe–,

- 5 (h) a group of the formula –OR¹³, wherein R¹³ is a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms,
- (i) a group of the formula –SR¹⁴, wherein R¹⁴ is a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms,
- (j) –CN, or
- 10 (k) an amidino group of the formula



wherein R¹⁵, R¹⁶ and R¹⁷ are each, independently, a hydrogen atom or alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms and wherein two of R¹⁵, R¹⁶ and R¹⁷ may additionally constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom(s) between them form a heterocyclic ring,

- 15 (l) a group of the formula –NHCONHalkyl, wherein the alkyl moiety contains 1 to 3 carbon atoms,
- (m) a group of the formula –NHCOOalkyl, wherein the alkyl moiety
- 20 contains 1 to 3 carbon atoms,
- (iii) a group of the formula –COOR¹⁸, wherein R¹⁸ is straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms,
- (iv) a group of the formula –CONR¹⁹R²⁰, wherein R¹⁹ and R²⁰ are each, independently, a hydrogen atom, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms or
- 25 cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or wherein R¹⁹ and R²⁰ constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring, and wherein

one carbon atom in said hydrocarbon bridge is optionally replaced by -O-, -NH-, or -NMe-,

(v) a group of the formula $-OR^{21}$, wherein R^{21} is a hydrogen atom, or a straight or branched alkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, wherein one or more hydrogen atoms of said alkyl or acyl group are optionally replaced with a group independently selected from the class consisting of -OH, -Oalkyl (wherein the alkyl moiety contains 1 to 6 carbon atoms), -NH₂, -NHMe and -NMe₂,

(vi) a group of the formula $-NR^{23}R^{24}$, wherein R^{23} and R^{24} are each, independently,

(a) a hydrogen atom,

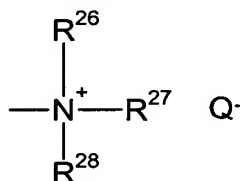
(b) straight or branched alkyl or acyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 7 carbon atoms, wherein said one or more hydrogen atoms of said alkyl or acyl group are optionally replaced with a group independently selected from the class consisting of -OH, -Oalkyl (wherein the alkyl moiety is 1 to 6 carbon atoms), -NH₂, -NHMe and -NMe₂,

(c) a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_mCOOH$, wherein m is 0, 1 or 2,

(d) a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_nCOOR^{25}$, wherein n is 0, 1 or 2, and wherein R^{25} is straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or

(e) a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_nCONHR^{25}$, wherein n is 0, 1 or 2, and wherein R^{25} is straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

(vii) a quaternary group of the formula

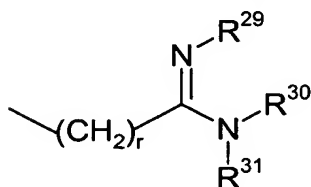


wherein R^{26} , R^{27} and R^{28} are each, independently, a branched or

unbranched alkyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms and Q⁻ a pharmaceutically acceptable counter ion, or

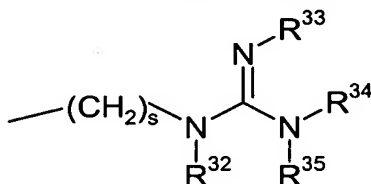
(viii) a cycloalkyl group of 3 to 7 carbon atoms,

- 5 (B) branched or unbranched carboxylic acid groups of 3 to 6 carbon atoms,
 (C) branched or unbranched phosphonic acid groups of 2 to 6 carbon atoms,
 (D) branched or unbranched sulfonic acid groups of 2 to 6 carbon atoms,
 (E) amidino groups of the formula



10 wherein r is 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6, and R²⁹, R³⁰ and R³¹ are each, independently, a hydrogen atom or alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms, and wherein two of R²⁹, R³⁰ and R³¹ may additionally constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom(s) between them form a heterocyclic ring,

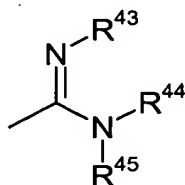
- (F) guanidino groups of the formula



15 wherein s is 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6, and R³², R³³, R³⁴ and R³⁵ are each, independently, a hydrogen atom or alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms, and wherein two of R³², R³³, R³⁴ and R³⁵ may additionally constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom(s) between them form a heterocyclic ring,

- 20 (G) phenyl, wherein one or more hydrogen atoms of said phenyl group are optionally and independently replaced with:
- (i) alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms,
 - (ii) -COOH,

- (iii) $-\text{SO}_2\text{OH}$,
- (iv) $-\text{PO}(\text{OH})_2$,
- (v) a group of the formula $-\text{COOR}^{36}$, wherein R^{36} is straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 5 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 5 carbon atoms,
- (vi) a group of the formula $-\text{NR}^{37}\text{R}^{38}$, wherein R^{37} and R^{38} are each, independently, a hydrogen atom, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms or acyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, or wherein R^{37} and R^{38} constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring,
- (vii) a group of the formula $-\text{CONR}^{39}\text{R}^{40}$, wherein R^{39} and R^{40} are each, independently, a hydrogen atom, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or wherein R^{39} and R^{40} constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring, and wherein one carbon atom in said hydrocarbon bridge is optionally replaced by $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{NH}-$, or $-\text{NMe}-$,
- (viii) a group of the formula $-\text{OR}^{41}$, wherein R^{41} is a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms,
- (ix) a group of the formula $-\text{SR}^{42}$, wherein R^{42} is a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms,
- (x) $-\text{CN}$, or
- (xi) an amidino group of the formula



wherein R^{43} , R^{44} and R^{45} are each, independently, a hydrogen atom or alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms, and wherein two of R^{43} , R^{44} and R^{45} may

additionally constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom(s) between them form a heterocyclic ring,

- 5 (H) groups of the formula $-NR^{46}R^{47}$, wherein R^{46} and R^{47} are each independently a hydrogen atom, phenyl which is optionally mono- or polysubstituted with halogen, or R^{100b} , wherein R^{100b} is as hereinbefore defined,
- 10 (I) saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic groups selected from the class consisting of imidazoliny, imidazolidiny, pyrroliny, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, morpholiny, thiomorpholiny, thiazolidiny, azepiny, tetrahydropyrany, tetrahydrofurany, benzodioxoly, tetrahydrothiophenyl and sulfolany, wherein said heterocyclic group is optionally mono- or poly-
- substituted with moieties independently selected from the class consisting of:
- (i) oxo,
- 15 (ii) $-OR^{101}$, wherein R^{101} is:
- (a) a hydrogen atom,
- (b) alkyl of 1 to 7 carbons, wherein any hydrogen atom of said alkyl group is optionally replaced with $-OH$, $-OR^{110}$ (wherein R^{110} is an alkyl moiety of 1 to 6 carbon atoms), $-NH_2$, $-NHMe$ or $-NMe_2$,
- 20 (c) acyl of 1 to 7 carbons, wherein any hydrogen atom of said acyl group is optionally replaced with $-OH$, $-OR^{111}$ (wherein R^{111} is an alkyl moiety of 1 to 6 carbon atoms), $-NH_2$, $-NHMe$ or $-NMe_2$,
- (d) $-CONR^{102}R^{103}$, wherein R^{102} and R^{103} are each independently a hydrogen atom or alkyl of 1 to 7 atoms, or wherein R^{102} and
- 25 R^{103} constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring, and wherein one carbon atom in said hydrocarbon bridge is optionally replaced by $-O-$, $-NH-$, or $-NMe-$, or
- 30 (e) $-COOR^{104}$, wherein R^{104} is alkyl of 1 to 7 atoms,

(iii) $-\text{CONR}^{105}\text{R}^{106}$, wherein R^{105} and R^{106} are each independently:

- (a) a hydrogen atom,
- (b) straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 7 atoms,
- (c) benzoyl,
- (d) benzyl or
- (e) phenyl, wherein said phenyl ring is optionally mono- or polysubstituted with $-\text{OR}^{112}$, wherein R^{112} is alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

or, wherein R^{105} and R^{106} constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring, and wherein one carbon atom in said hydrocarbon bridge is optionally replaced by $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{NH}-$, or $-\text{NMe}-$,

(iv) $-\text{COOR}^{107}$, wherein R^{107} is a hydrogen atom, or straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms ,

(v) straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, alkenyl or alkynyl of 2 to 7 carbon atoms, or cycloalkyl of 3 to 7 carbons, wherein one or more hydrogen atoms of said alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl or cycloalkyl group is optionally replaced with a moiety independently selected from the class consisting of:

- (a) oxo,
- (b) $-\text{OH}$,
- (c) $-\text{OR}^{113}$, wherein R^{113} is alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms,
- (d) $-\text{OCOCH}_3$,
- (e) $-\text{NH}_2$,
- (f) $-\text{NHMe}$,
- (g) $-\text{NMe}_2$,
- (h) $-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$, and
- (i) $-\text{CO}_2\text{R}^{114}$ wherein R^{114} is alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms, or cycloalkyl of 3 to 7 carbons,

(vi) acyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, which may be straight, branched or cyclic, and wherein one or more hydrogen atoms of said acyl group is optionally replaced with a moiety independently selected from the class consisting of:

- 5 (a) -OH,
- (b) -OR¹¹⁵, wherein R¹¹⁵ is alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms,
- (c) -NH₂,
- (d) -NHMe,
- (e) -NMe₂,
- 10 (f) -NHCOMe,
- (g) oxo,
- (h) -CO₂ R¹¹⁶, wherein R¹¹⁶ is alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms,
- (i) -CN,
- (j) the halogen atoms,
- 15 (k) heterocycles selected from the class consisting of imidazoliny, imidazolidiny, pyrroliny, pyrrolidiny, piperidiny, piperaziny, morpholiny, thiomorpholiny, thiazolidiny, azepiny, tetrahydropyrany, tetrahydrofurany, benzodioxoly, tetrahydrothiophenyl and sulfolany, and
- 20 (l) aryl or heteroaryl selected from the class consisting of phenyl, naphthyl, indolyl, thiophenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, furyl, pyrroly, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, imidazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxadiazolyl, triazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyridazinyl, pyrazinyl, triazinyl, indolyziny, isoindolyl, benzo[b]furany, benzo[b]thiophenyl,
- 25 indazolyl, benzthiazolyl, benzimidazolyl, quinoliny, isoquinoliny, puriny, quinoliziny, cinnoliny, pthalaniny, quinoxaliny, naphthyridiny, pteridiny and quinazoliny,
- (vii) -SO₂R¹⁰⁸, wherein R¹⁰⁸ is:
 - 30 (a) aryl or heteroaryl which is selected from the group consisting of phenyl, naphthyl, indolyl, thiophenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, furyl, pyrroly, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, imidazolyl,

- isothiazolyl, oxadiazolyl, triazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyridazinyl, pyrazinyl, triazinyl, indolizinyl, isoindolyl, benzo[b]furanyl, benzo[b]thiophenyl, indazolyl, benzthiazolyl, benzimidazolyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, purinyl, quinolizinyl, cinnolinyl, pthalaninyl, quinoxalinyl, naphthyridinyl, pteridinyl and quinazolinyl, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl moiety is optionally substituted with one or more moieties selected from the class consisting of the halogen atoms, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, and -OR¹¹⁷ (wherein R¹¹⁷ is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms),
- (b) a heterocyclic group selected from the class consisting of imidazolyl, imidazolidinyl, pyrrolinyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, morpholinyl, thiomorpholinyl, thiazolidinyl, azepinyl, tetrahydropyranyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, benzodioxolyl, tetrahydrothiophenyl and sulfolanyl, wherein said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted with one or more moieties selected from the class consisting of the halogen atoms, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, and -OR¹¹⁸ (wherein R¹¹⁸ is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms), or
- (c) straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 atoms, wherein said alkyl moiety is optionally substituted with one or more moieties selected from the class consisting of the halogen atoms, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, and -OR¹¹⁹ (wherein R¹¹⁹ is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms),
- (viii) -COR¹⁰⁹, wherein R¹⁰⁹ is:
- (a) aryl or heteroaryl which is selected from the class consisting of phenyl, naphthyl, indolyl, thiophenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, furyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, imidazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxadiazolyl, triazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyridazinyl, pyrazinyl, triazinyl, indolizinyl, isoindolyl, benzo[b]furanyl,

- benzo[b]thiophenyl, indazolyl, benzthiazolyl, benzimidazolyl, quinoliny, isoquinoliny, puriny, quinoliziny, cinnoliny, pthalaniny, quinoxaliny, naphthyridiny, pteridiny and quinazoliny, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl moiety is optionally substituted with one or more moieties selected from the class consisting of the halogen atoms, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, and -OR¹²⁰ (wherein R¹²⁰ is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms),
- (b) a heterocyclic group selected from the class consisting of imidazoliny, imidazolidiny, pyrroliny, pyrrolidiny, piperidiny, piperaziny, morpholiny, thiomorpholiny, thiazolidiny, azepiny, tetrahydropyrany, tetrahydrofurany, benzodioxolyl, tetrahydrothiophenyl and sulfolany, wherein said heterocyclyl is optionally substituted with one or more halogen, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, or -OR¹²¹ (wherein R¹²¹ is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms), or
- (c) straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 atoms, wherein said alkyl moiety is optionally substituted with one or more moieties selected from the class consisting of the halogen atoms, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, and -OR¹²² (wherein R¹²² is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms),
- (ix) -CHO,
- (x) the halogen atoms, and
- (xi) aryl or heteroaryl which is selected from the class consisting of phenyl, naphthyl, indolyl, thiophenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, furyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, imidazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxadiazolyl, triazolyl, thiadiazolyl, pyridaziny, pyraziny, triaziny, indolyziny, isoindolyl, benzo[b]furany, benzo[b]thiophenyl, indazolyl, benzthiazolyl, benzimidazolyl, quinoliny, isoquinoliny, puriny,

quinoliziny, cinnoliny, pthalaniny, quinoxaliny, naphthyridiny,
pteridiny and quinazoliny,

(J) the halogen atoms, and

(K) -CN;

5 X is an oxygen atom;

R³ is branched or unbranched alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms;

R⁴ is a group of the formula -CH₂R⁵⁵, wherein,

R⁵⁵ is:

10 aryl or heteroaryl which is selected from the class consisting of phenyl, pyridyl,
and pyrimidinyl, wherein one or more of the hydrogen atoms of said aryl or
heteroaryl group is optionally and independently replaced with:

(A) R^{59b}, which is aryl or heteroaryl selected from the class consisting of
phenyl, thiophenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, furyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, and
thiazolyl, wherein one of the hydrogen atoms of said aryl or heteroaryl
15 group is optionally replaced with:

(i) branched or unbranched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl
of 3 to 6 carbon atoms, which alkyl or cycloalkyl group is
optionally mono- or polysubstituted with halogen or oxo,

(ii) -CN,

20 (iii) nitro, or

(iv) halogen,

(B) methyl, which is optionally trisubstituted with fluorine atoms or is
optionally monosubstituted with R^{59b},

25 (C) branched or unbranched alkyl of 2 to 6 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to
6 carbon atoms, which alkyl or cycloalkyl group is optionally
monosubstituted with halogen or oxo,

(D) a group of the formula -COOR⁶⁷, wherein R⁶⁷ is straight or branched
alkyl of 1 to 5 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 5 carbon atoms,

(E) a group of the formula $-\text{COR}^{72}$, wherein R^{72} is a hydrogen atom, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 5 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl of 3 to 5 carbon atoms or R^{59b} ,

(F) a group of the formula $-\text{OR}^{73}$, wherein R^{73} is a hydrogen atom, an alkyl, fluoroalkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, or R^{59b} ,

(G) $-\text{CN}$,

(H) nitro, or

(I) halogen;

R^5 is Cl;

Z is $=\text{C}(\text{H})-$; and,

R^7 is Cl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

4. A compound of the formula I, as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

A^1 is $=\text{N}-$;

A^2 is $=\text{C}(\text{H})-$;

D is $=\text{C}(\text{R}^1)-$, $=\text{C}(\text{H})-$, $=\text{C}(\text{SO}_2\text{R}^1)-$, $=\text{C}(\text{C}(\text{O})\text{H})-$ or $=\text{C}(\text{COR}^1)-$, wherein R^1 is selected from the class consisting of:

(A) $-\text{R}^{100c}$, which is:

branched or unbranched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkenyl of 2 to 6 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl or cycloalkenyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms, in which alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl or cycloalkenyl group one or more hydrogen atoms are optionally and independently replaced with:

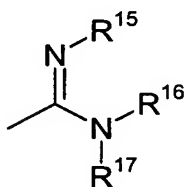
(i) oxo,

(ii) phenyl, wherein one hydrogen atom of said phenyl group is optionally replaced with:

(a) alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms,

(b) $-\text{COOH}$,

- (c) $-\text{SO}_2\text{OH}$,
- (d) $-\text{PO}(\text{OH})_2$,
- (e) a group of the formula $-\text{COOR}^8$, wherein R^8 is straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 5 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 5 carbon atoms,
- (f) a group of the formula $-\text{NR}^9\text{R}^{10}$, wherein R^9 and R^{10} are each independently a hydrogen atom, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms or acyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, or wherein R^9 and R^{10} constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring,
- (g) a group of the formula $-\text{CONR}^{11}\text{R}^{12}$, wherein R^{11} and R^{12} are each independently a hydrogen atom, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or wherein R^{11} and R^{12} constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring, and wherein one carbon atom in said hydrocarbon bridge is optionally replaced by $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{NH}-$, or $-\text{NMe}-$,
- (h) a group of the formula $-\text{OR}^{13}$, wherein R^{13} is a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms,
- (i) a group of the formula $-\text{SR}^{14}$, wherein R^{14} is a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms,
- (j) $-\text{CN}$, or
- (k) an amidino group of the formula



wherein R^{15} , R^{16} and R^{17} are each, independently, a hydrogen

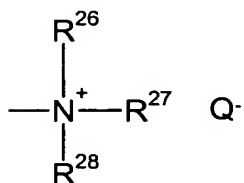
atom or alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms and wherein two of R¹⁵, R¹⁶ and R¹⁷ may additionally constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom(s) between them form a heterocyclic ring,

- 5 (l) a group of the formula –NHCONHalkyl, wherein the alkyl moiety contains 1 to 3 carbon atoms,
- (m) a group of the formula –NHCOOalkyl, wherein the alkyl moiety contains 1 to 3 carbon atoms,
- 10 (iii) a group of the formula –COOR¹⁸, wherein R¹⁸ is straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms,
- (iv) a group of the formula –CONR¹⁹R²⁰, wherein R¹⁹ and R²⁰ are each, independently, a hydrogen atom, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or wherein R¹⁹ and R²⁰ constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring, and wherein one carbon atom in said hydrocarbon bridge is optionally replaced by –O–, –NH–, or –NMe–,
- 15 (v) a group of the formula –OR²¹, wherein R²¹ is a hydrogen atom, or a straight or branched alkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, wherein one or more hydrogen atoms of said alkyl or acyl group are optionally replaced with a group independently selected from the class consisting of –OH, –Oalkyl (wherein the alkyl moiety contains 1 to 6 carbon atoms), –NH₂, –NHMe and –NMe₂,
- 20 (vi) a group of the formula –NR²³R²⁴, wherein R²³ and R²⁴ are each, independently,
- 25 (a) a hydrogen atom,
- (b) straight or branched alkyl or acyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 7 carbon atoms, wherein said one or more hydrogen atoms of said alkyl or acyl group are optionally replaced
- 30 with a group independently selected from the class consisting of

-OH, -Oalkyl (wherein the alkyl moiety is 1 to 6 carbon atoms),
-NH₂, -NHMe and -NMe₂,

- (c) a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_mCOOH$, wherein m is 0, 1 or 2,
(d) a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_nCOOR^{25}$, wherein n is 0, 1 or 2, and
5 wherein R²⁵ is straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or
(e) a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_nCONHR^{25}$, wherein n is 0, 1 or 2,
and wherein R²⁵ is straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon
atoms,

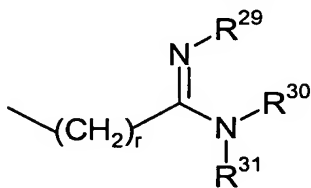
(vii) a quaternary group of the formula



10 wherein R²⁶, R²⁷ and R²⁸ are each, independently, a branched or
unbranched alkyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms and Q⁻ is a
pharmaceutically acceptable, or

(viii) a cycloalkyl group of 3 to 7 carbon atoms,

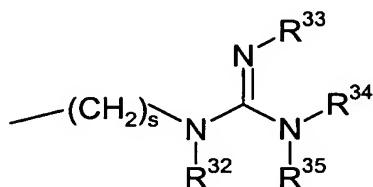
- 15 (B) branched or unbranched carboxylic acid groups of 3 to 6 carbon atoms,
(C) branched or unbranched phosphonic acid groups of 2 to 6 carbon atoms,
(D) branched or unbranched sulfonic acid groups of 2 to 6 carbon atoms,
(E) amidino groups of the formula



20 wherein r is 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6, and R²⁹, R³⁰ and R³¹ are each, independently, a
hydrogen atom or alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms, and wherein two of R²⁹, R³⁰
and R³¹ may additionally constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5

carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom(s) between them form a heterocyclic ring,

(F) guanidino groups of the formula



5 wherein s is 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6, and R³², R³³, R³⁴ and R³⁵ are each, independently, a hydrogen atom or alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms, and wherein two of R³², R³³, R³⁴ and R³⁵ may additionally constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom(s) between them form a heterocyclic ring,

10 (G) phenyl, wherein one or more hydrogen atoms of said phenyl group are optionally and independently replaced with:

(i) alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms,

(ii) -COOH,

(iii) -SO₂OH,

15 (iv) -PO(OH)₂,

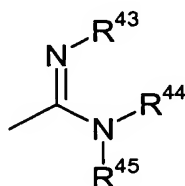
(v) a group of the formula -COOR³⁶, wherein R³⁶ is straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 5 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 5 carbon atoms,

20 (vi) a group of the formula -NR³⁷R³⁸, wherein R³⁷ and R³⁸ are each, independently, a hydrogen atom, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms or acyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, or wherein R³⁷ and R³⁸ constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring,

25 (vii) a group of the formula -CONR³⁹R⁴⁰, wherein R³⁹ and R⁴⁰ are each, independently, a hydrogen atom, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or wherein R³⁹ and R⁴⁰ constitute a

saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring, and wherein one carbon atom in said hydrocarbon bridge is optionally replaced by -O-, -NH-, or -NMe-,

- 5 (viii) a group of the formula $-OR^{41}$, wherein R^{41} is a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms,
- (ix) a group of the formula $-SR^{42}$, wherein R^{42} is a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms,
- (x) -CN, or
- 10 (xi) an amidino group of the formula



wherein R^{43} , R^{44} and R^{45} are each, independently, a hydrogen atom or alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms, and wherein two of R^{43} , R^{44} and R^{45} may additionally constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom(s) between them form a heterocyclic ring,

- 15 (H) groups of the formula $-NR^{46}R^{47}$, wherein R^{46} and R^{47} are each independently a hydrogen atom, phenyl which is optionally monosubstituted with halogen, or R^{100c} , wherein R^{100c} is as hereinbefore defined,
- 20 (I) saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic groups selected from the class consisting of pyrrolinyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, morpholinyl and thiomorpholinyl, wherein said heterocyclic groups are optionally mono- or poly-substituted with moieties independently selected from the class consisting of:
 - 25 (i) oxo,
 - (ii) $-OR^{101}$, wherein R^{101} is:
 - (a) a hydrogen atom,

- (b) alkyl of 1 to 7 carbons, wherein any hydrogen atom of said alkyl group is optionally replaced with -OH, -OR¹¹⁰ (wherein R¹¹⁰ is an alkyl moiety of 1 to 6 carbon atoms), -NH₂, -NHMe or -NMe₂,
- (c) acyl of 1 to 7 carbons, wherein any hydrogen atom of said acyl group is optionally replaced with -OH, -OR¹¹¹ (wherein R¹¹¹ is an alkyl moiety of 1 to 6 carbon atoms), -NH₂, -NHMe or -NMe₂,
- (d) -CONR¹⁰²R¹⁰³, wherein R¹⁰² and R¹⁰³ are each independently a hydrogen atom or alkyl of 1 to 7 atoms, or wherein R¹⁰² and R¹⁰³ constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring, and wherein one carbon atom in said hydrocarbon bridge is optionally replaced by -O-, -NH-, or -NMe-, or
- (e) -COOR¹⁰⁴, wherein R¹⁰⁴ is alkyl of 1 to 7 atoms,
- (iii) -CONR¹⁰⁵R¹⁰⁶, wherein R¹⁰⁵ and R¹⁰⁶ are each independently:
 - (a) a hydrogen atom,
 - (b) straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 7 atoms,
 - (c) benzoyl,
 - (d) benzyl or
 - (e) phenyl, wherein said phenyl ring is optionally mono- or polysubstituted with -OR¹¹², wherein R¹¹² is alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms,
 or, wherein R¹⁰⁵ and R¹⁰⁶ constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring, and wherein one carbon atom in said hydrocarbon bridge is optionally replaced by -O-, -NH-, or -NMe-,
- (iv) -COOR¹⁰⁷, wherein R¹⁰⁷ is a hydrogen atom, or straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms ,

- 5 (v) straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, alkenyl or alkynyl of 2 to 7 carbon atoms, or cycloalkyl of 3 to 7 carbons, wherein one or more hydrogen atoms of said alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl or cycloalkyl group is optionally replaced with a moiety independently selected from the class consisting of:
- (a) oxo,
 - (b) -OH,
 - (c) -OR¹¹³, wherein R¹¹³ is alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms,
 - (d) -OCOCH₃,
 - 10 (e) -NH₂,
 - (f) -NHMe,
 - (g) -NMe₂,
 - (h) -CO₂H, and
 - (i) -CO₂ R¹¹⁴ wherein R¹¹⁴ is alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms, or
15 cycloalkyl of 3 to 7 carbons,
- (vi) acyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, which may be straight, branched or cyclic, and wherein one or more hydrogen atoms of said acyl group is optionally replaced with a moiety independently selected from the class consisting of:
- 20 (a) -OH,
 - (b) -OR¹¹⁵, wherein R¹¹⁵ is alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms,
 - (c) -NH₂,
 - (d) -NHMe,
 - (e) -NMe₂,
 - 25 (f) -NHCOMe,
 - (g) oxo,
 - (h) -CO₂ R¹¹⁶, wherein R¹¹⁶ is alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms,
 - (i) -CN,
 - (j) the halogen atoms,

- 5
- (k) heterocycles selected from the class consisting of pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, morpholinyl and thiomorpholinyl, and
- (l) aryl or heteroaryl selected from the class consisting of phenyl, thiophenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, furyl, pyrrolyl and oxazolyl,
- (vii) $-\text{SO}_2\text{R}^{108}$, wherein R^{108} is:
- 10
- (a) aryl or heteroaryl which is selected from the group consisting of phenyl, thiophenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, furyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl thiazolyl and pyrazolyl, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl moiety is optionally substituted with one or more moieties selected from the class consisting of the halogen atoms, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, and $-\text{OR}^{117}$ (wherein R^{117} is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms),
- 15
- (b) a heterocyclic group selected from the class consisting of pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, morpholinyl and thiomorpholinyl, wherein said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted with one or more moieties selected from the class consisting of the halogen atoms, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, and $-\text{OR}^{118}$ (wherein R^{118} is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms), or
- 20
- (c) straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 atoms, wherein said alkyl moiety is optionally substituted with one or more moieties selected from the class consisting of the halogen atoms, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, and $-\text{OR}^{119}$ (wherein R^{119} is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms),
- 25
- (viii) $-\text{COR}^{109}$, wherein R^{109} is:
- (a) aryl or heteroaryl which is selected from the class consisting of phenyl, thiophenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, furyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl and pyrazolyl, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl moiety is optionally substituted with one or more moieties selected from the class consisting of the halogen atoms, straight or branched alkyl of
- 30

- 1 to 6 carbons, and -OR¹²⁰ (wherein R¹²⁰ is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms),
- (b) a heterocyclic group selected from the class consisting of pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, morpholinyl and thiomorpholinyl, wherein said heterocyclyl is optionally substituted with one or more halogen, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, or -OR¹²¹ (wherein R¹²¹ is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms), or
- (c) straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 atoms, wherein said alkyl moiety is optionally substituted with one or more moieties selected from the class consisting of the halogen atoms, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, and -OR¹²² (wherein R¹²² is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms),
- (ix) -CHO,
- (x) the halogen atoms, and
- (xi) aryl or heteroaryl which is selected from the class consisting of phenyl, thiophenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, furyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl and imidazolyl,
- (J) the halogen atoms, and
- (K) -CN;
- X is an oxygen atom;
- R³ is branched or unbranched alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms;
- R⁴ is a group of the formula -CH₂R⁵⁵, wherein,
- R⁵⁵ is:
- phenyl, which is optionally substituted at the 4-position with:
- (A) R^{59c}, which is aryl or heteroaryl selected from the class consisting of phenyl, thiophenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl and furyl, wherein one of the hydrogen atoms of said aryl or heteroaryl group is optionally replaced with:

- 5
- (i) branched or unbranched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms, which alkyl or cycloalkyl group is optionally mono- or polysubstituted with halogen or oxo,
- (ii) -CN,
- (iii) nitro, or
- (iv) halogen,
- (B) methyl,
- (C) branched or unbranched alkyl of 2 to 6 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms, which alkyl or cycloalkyl group is optionally monosubstituted with halogen or oxo,
- 10
- (D) a group of the formula $-\text{COOR}^{67}$, wherein R^{67} is straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 5 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 5 carbon atoms,
- (E) a group of the formula $-\text{COR}^{72}$, wherein R^{72} is a hydrogen atom, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 5 carbon atoms, or cycloalkyl of 3 to 5 carbon atoms,
- 15
- (F) a group of the formula $-\text{OR}^{73}$, wherein R^{73} is a hydrogen atom, an alkyl, or fluoroalkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms,
- (G) -CN,
- (H) nitro, or
- 20
- (I) halogen;

R^5 is Cl;

Z is $=\text{C}(\text{H})-$; and,

R^7 is Cl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

25

5. A compound of the formula I, as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

A^1 is $=\text{N}-$;

A^2 is $=\text{C}(\text{H})-$;

D is =C(H)-, =C(SO₂R¹)- or =C(C(O)R¹)-, wherein R¹ is selected from the class consisting of:

(A) -R^{100d}, which is:

branched or unbranched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkenyl of 2 to 6 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl or cycloalkenyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms, in which alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl or cycloalkenyl group one or more hydrogen atoms are optionally and independently replaced with:

(i) oxo,

(ii) a group of the formula -COOR¹⁸, wherein R¹⁸ is straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms,

(iii) a group of the formula -CONR¹⁹R²⁰, wherein R¹⁹ and R²⁰ are each, independently, a hydrogen atom, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or wherein R¹⁹ and R²⁰ constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring, and wherein one carbon atom in said hydrocarbon bridge is optionally replaced by -O-, -NH-, or -NMe-,

(iv) a group of the formula -OR²¹, wherein R²¹ is a hydrogen atom, or a straight or branched alkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, wherein one or more hydrogen atoms of said alkyl or acyl group are optionally replaced with a group independently selected from the class consisting of -OH, -Oalkyl (wherein the alkyl moiety contains 1 to 6 carbon atoms), -NH₂, -NHMe and -NMe₂,

(v) a group of the formula -NR²³R²⁴, wherein R²³ and R²⁴ are each, independently,

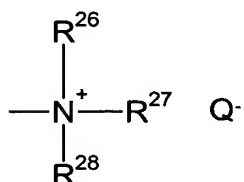
(a) a hydrogen atom,

(b) straight or branched alkyl or acyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 7 carbon atoms, wherein said one or more hydrogen atoms of said alkyl or acyl group are optionally replaced with a group independently selected from the class consisting of

-OH, -Oalkyl (wherein the alkyl moiety is 1 to 6 carbon atoms),
-NH₂, -NHMe and -NMe₂,

- (c) a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_mCOOH$, wherein m is 0, 1 or 2,
- (d) a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_nCOOR^{25}$, wherein n is 0, 1 or 2, and
wherein R²⁵ is straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or
- (e) a group of the formula $-(CH_2)_nCONHR^{25}$, wherein n is 0, 1 or 2,
and wherein R²⁵ is straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon
atoms,

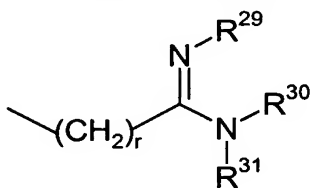
(vi) a quaternary group of the formula



wherein R²⁶, R²⁷ and R²⁸ are each, independently, a branched or
unbranched alkyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms and Q⁻ is a
pharmaceutically acceptable counter ion, or

(vii) a cycloalkyl group of 3 to 7 carbon atoms,

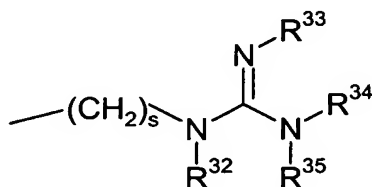
- (B) branched or unbranched carboxylic acid groups of 3 to 6 carbon atoms,
- (C) branched or unbranched phosphonic acid groups of 2 to 6 carbon atoms,
- (D) branched or unbranched sulfonic acid groups of 2 to 6 carbon atoms,
- (E) amidino groups of the formula



wherein r is 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6, and R²⁹, R³⁰ and R³¹ are each, independently, a
hydrogen atom or alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms, and wherein two of R²⁹, R³⁰
and R³¹ may additionally constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5

carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom(s) between them form a heterocyclic ring,

(F) guanidino groups of the formula



5 wherein s is 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6, and R³², R³³, R³⁴ and R³⁵ are each, independently, a hydrogen atom or alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms, and wherein two of R³², R³³, R³⁴ and R³⁵ may additionally constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom(s) between them form a heterocyclic ring,

10 (G) groups of the formula -NR⁴⁶R⁴⁷, wherein R⁴⁶ and R⁴⁷ are each independently a hydrogen atom, phenyl which is optionally monosubstituted with halogen, or R^{100d}, wherein R^{100d} is as hereinbefore defined,

(H) saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic groups selected from the class consisting of pyrrolinyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, morpholinyl and
15 thiomorpholinyl, wherein said heterocyclic groups are optionally mono- or poly-substituted with moieties independently selected from the class consisting of:

(i) oxo,

(ii) -OR¹⁰¹, wherein R¹⁰¹ is:

- 20 (a) a hydrogen atom,
- (b) alkyl of 1 to 7 carbons, wherein any hydrogen atom of said alkyl group is optionally replaced with -OH, -OR¹¹⁰ (wherein R¹¹⁰ is an alkyl moiety of 1 to 6 carbon atoms), -NH₂, -NHMe or -NMe₂,
- (c) acyl of 1 to 7 carbons, wherein any hydrogen atom of said acyl
25 group is optionally replaced with -OH, -OR¹¹¹ (wherein R¹¹¹ is an alkyl moiety of 1 to 6 carbon atoms), -NH₂, -NHMe or -NMe₂,

(d) $-\text{CONR}^{102}\text{R}^{103}$, wherein R^{102} and R^{103} are each independently a hydrogen atom or alkyl of 1 to 7 atoms, or wherein R^{102} and R^{103} constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring, and wherein one carbon atom in said hydrocarbon bridge is optionally replaced by $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{NH}-$, or $-\text{NMe}-$, or

(e) $-\text{COOR}^{104}$, wherein R^{104} is alkyl of 1 to 7 atoms,

(iii) $-\text{CONR}^{105}\text{R}^{106}$, wherein R^{105} and R^{106} are each independently:

(a) a hydrogen atom,

(b) straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 7 atoms,

(c) benzoyl,

(d) benzyl or

(e) phenyl, wherein said phenyl ring is optionally mono- or polysubstituted with $-\text{OR}^{112}$, wherein R^{112} is alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

or, wherein R^{105} and R^{106} constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring, and wherein one carbon atom in said hydrocarbon bridge is optionally replaced by $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{NH}-$, or $-\text{NMe}-$,

(iv) $-\text{COOR}^{107}$, wherein R^{107} is a hydrogen atom, or straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms,

(v) straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, alkenyl or alkynyl of 2 to 7 carbon atoms, or cycloalkyl of 3 to 7 carbons, wherein one or more hydrogen atoms of said alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl or cycloalkyl group is optionally replaced with a moiety independently selected from the class consisting of:

(a) oxo,

(b) $-\text{OH}$,

- (c) -OR¹¹³, wherein R¹¹³ is alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms,
- (d) -OCOCH₃,
- (e) -NH₂,
- (f) -NHMe,
- (g) -NMe₂,
- (h) -CO₂H, and
- (i) -CO₂ R¹¹⁴ wherein R¹¹⁴ is alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms, or cycloalkyl of 3 to 7 carbons,

(vi) acyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, which may be straight, branched or cyclic, and wherein one or more hydrogen atoms of said acyl group is optionally replaced with a moiety independently selected from the class consisting of:

- (a) -OH,
- (b) -OR¹¹⁵, wherein R¹¹⁵ is alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms,
- (c) -NH₂,
- (d) -NHMe,
- (e) -NMe₂,
- (f) -NHCOMe,
- (g) oxo,
- (h) -CO₂ R¹¹⁶, wherein R¹¹⁶ is alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms,
- (i) -CN,
- (j) the halogen atoms,
- (k) heterocycles selected from the class consisting of pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, morpholinyl and thiomorpholinyl, and
- (l) aryl or heteroaryl selected from the class consisting of phenyl, thiophenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, furyl, pyrrolyl and oxazolyl,

(vii) -SO₂R¹⁰⁸, wherein R¹⁰⁸ is:

- (a) aryl or heteroaryl which is selected from the group consisting of phenyl, thiophenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, furyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl and pyrazolyl, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl moiety is

optionally substituted with one or more moieties selected from the class consisting of the halogen atoms, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, and -OR¹¹⁷ (wherein R¹¹⁷ is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms),

(b) a heterocyclic group selected from the class consisting of pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, morpholinyl and thiomorpholinyl, wherein said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted with one or more moieties selected from the class consisting of the halogen atoms, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, and -OR¹¹⁸ (wherein R¹¹⁸ is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms), or

(c) straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 atoms, wherein said alkyl moiety is optionally substituted with one or more moieties selected from the class consisting of the halogen atoms, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, and -OR¹¹⁹ (wherein R¹¹⁹ is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms),

(viii) -COR¹⁰⁹, wherein R¹⁰⁹ is:

(a) aryl or heteroaryl which is selected from the class consisting of phenyl, thiophenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, furyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl and pyrazolyl, wherein said aryl or heteroaryl moiety is optionally substituted with one or more moieties selected from the class consisting of the halogen atoms, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, and -OR¹²⁰ (wherein R¹²⁰ is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms),

(b) a heterocyclic group selected from the class consisting of pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, morpholinyl and thiomorpholinyl, wherein said heterocyclyl is optionally substituted with one or more halogen, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, or -OR¹²¹ (wherein R¹²¹ is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms), or

- 5 (c) straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 atoms, wherein said alkyl moiety is optionally substituted with one or more moieties selected from the class consisting of the halogen atoms, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, and -OR¹²² (wherein R¹²² is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms),
- (ix) -CHO,
- (x) the halogen atoms, and
- (xi) aryl or heteroaryl which is selected from the class consisting of phenyl, thiophenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, furyl, pyrrolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl and imidazolyl, and
- 10 (I) the halogen atoms,
- X is an oxygen atom;
- R³ is branched or unbranched alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms;
- R⁴ is a group of the formula -CH₂R⁵⁵, wherein,
- 15 R⁵⁵ is:
- phenyl, which is optionally substituted at the 4-position with:
- (A) R^{59d}, which is aryl or heteroaryl selected from the class consisting of phenyl, thiophenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl and furyl, wherein one of the hydrogen atoms of said aryl or heteroaryl group is optionally replaced
- 20 with:
- (i) branched or unbranched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms, which alkyl or cycloalkyl group is optionally mono- or polysubstituted with halogen or oxo,
- (ii) -CN,
- 25 (iii) nitro, or
- (iv) halogen,
- (B) methyl,
- (C) branched or unbranched alkyl of 2 to 6 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms, which alkyl or cycloalkyl group is optionally
- 30 monosubstituted with halogen or oxo,

- (D) a group of the formula $-\text{COOR}^{67}$, wherein R^{67} is straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 5 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 5 carbon atoms,
- (E) a group of the formula $-\text{COR}^{72}$, wherein R^{72} is a hydrogen atom, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 5 carbon atoms, or cycloalkyl of 3 to 5 carbon atoms,
- (F) a group of the formula $-\text{OR}^{73}$, wherein R^{73} is a hydrogen atom, an alkyl, or fluoroalkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms,
- (G) $-\text{CN}$,
- (H) nitro, or
- (I) halogen;

R^5 is Cl;

Z is $=\text{C}(\text{H})-$; and,

R^7 is Cl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

6. A compound of the formula I, as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

A¹ is =N-;

A² is =C(H)-;

D is =C(SO₂R¹)- or =C(C(O)R¹)-, wherein R¹ is selected from the class consisting of:

5 (A) -R^{100e}, which is:

branched or unbranched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkenyl of 2 to 6 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl or cycloalkenyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms, in which alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl or cycloalkenyl group one or more hydrogen atoms are optionally and independently replaced with:

10 (i) oxo,

(ii) a group of the formula -COOR¹⁸, wherein R¹⁸ is straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms,

(iii) a group of the formula -CONR¹⁹R²⁰, wherein R¹⁹ and R²⁰ are each, independently, a hydrogen atom, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms or

15 cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or wherein R¹⁹ and R²⁰ constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring, and wherein one carbon atom in said hydrocarbon bridge is optionally replaced by -O-, -NH-, or -NMe-,

20 (iv) a group of the formula -OR²¹, wherein R²¹ is a hydrogen atom, or a straight or branched alkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, wherein one or more hydrogen atoms of said alkyl or acyl group are optionally replaced with a group independently selected from the class consisting of -OH, -Oalkyl (wherein the alkyl moiety contains 1 to 6 carbon atoms),
25 -NH₂, -NHMe and -NMe₂, or

(v) a group of the formula -NR²³R²⁴, wherein R²³ and R²⁴ are each, independently,

(a) a hydrogen atom,

- 5
- (b) straight or branched alkyl or acyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 7 carbon atoms, wherein said one or more hydrogen atoms of said alkyl or acyl group are optionally replaced with a group independently selected from the class consisting of -OH, -Oalkyl (wherein the alkyl moiety is 1 to 6 carbon atoms), -NH₂, -NHMe and -NMe₂,
- (c) a group of the formula -(CH₂)_mCOOH, wherein m is 0, 1 or 2,
- (d) a group of the formula -(CH₂)_nCOOR²⁵, wherein n is 0, 1 or 2, and wherein R²⁵ is straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or
- 10 (e) a group of the formula -(CH₂)_nCONHR²⁵, wherein n is 0, 1 or 2, and wherein R²⁵ is straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms,
- (B) groups of the formula -NR⁴⁶R⁴⁷, wherein R⁴⁶ and R⁴⁷ are each independently a hydrogen atom, phenyl which is optionally monosubstituted
- 15 with halogen, or R^{100e}, wherein R^{100e} is as hereinbefore defined, and
- (C) saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic groups selected from the class consisting of pyrrolinyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, morpholinyl and thiomorpholinyl, wherein said heterocyclic groups are optionally mono- or poly-substituted with moieties independently selected from the class consisting
- 20 of:
- (i) oxo,
- (ii) -OR¹⁰¹, wherein R¹⁰¹ is:
- (a) a hydrogen atom,
- (b) alkyl of 1 to 7 carbons, wherein any hydrogen atom of said alkyl
- 25 group is optionally replaced with -OH, -OR¹¹⁰ (wherein R¹¹⁰ is an alkyl moiety of 1 to 6 carbon atoms), -NH₂, -NHMe or -NMe₂,
- (c) acyl of 1 to 7 carbons, wherein any hydrogen atom of said acyl group is optionally replaced with -OH, -OR¹¹¹ (wherein R¹¹¹ is an alkyl moiety of 1 to 6 carbon atoms), -NH₂, -NHMe or -NMe₂,

- 5 (d) $-\text{CONR}^{102}\text{R}^{103}$, wherein R^{102} and R^{103} are each independently a hydrogen atom or alkyl of 1 to 7 atoms, or wherein R^{102} and R^{103} constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring, and wherein one carbon atom in said hydrocarbon bridge is optionally replaced by $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{NH}-$, or $-\text{NMe}-$, or
- (e) $-\text{COOR}^{104}$, wherein R^{104} is alkyl of 1 to 7 atoms,
- 10 (iii) $-\text{CONR}^{105}\text{R}^{106}$, wherein R^{105} and R^{106} are each independently:
- (a) a hydrogen atom, or
- (b) straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 7 atoms,
- 15 or, wherein R^{105} and R^{106} constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring, and wherein one carbon atom in said hydrocarbon bridge is optionally replaced by $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{NH}-$, or $-\text{NMe}-$,
- (iv) $-\text{COOR}^{107}$, wherein R^{107} is a hydrogen atom, or straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms ,
- 20 (v) straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, alkenyl or alkynyl of 2 to 7 carbon atoms, or cycloalkyl of 3 to 7 carbons, wherein one or more hydrogen atoms of said alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl or cycloalkyl group is optionally replaced with a moiety independently selected from the class consisting of:
- 25 (a) oxo,
- (b) $-\text{OH}$,
- (c) $-\text{OR}^{113}$, wherein R^{113} is alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms,
- (d) $-\text{OCOCH}_3$,
- (e) $-\text{NH}_2$,
- 30 (f) $-\text{NHMe}$,

- (g) -NMe₂,
(h) -CO₂H, and
(i) -CO₂ R¹¹⁴ wherein R¹¹⁴ is alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms, or cycloalkyl of 3 to 7 carbons,
- 5 (vi) acyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, which may be straight, branched or cyclic, and wherein one or more hydrogen atoms of said acyl group is optionally replaced with a moiety independently selected from the class consisting of:
- (a) -OH,
10 (b) -OR¹¹⁵, wherein R¹¹⁵ is alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms,
(c) -NH₂,
(d) -NHMe,
(e) -NMe₂,
(f) -NHCOMe,
15 (g) oxo,
(h) -CO₂ R¹¹⁶, wherein R¹¹⁶ is alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms,
(i) -CN,
(j) the halogen atoms,
(k) heterocycles selected from the class consisting of pyrrolidinyl,
20 piperidinyl, piperazinyl, morpholinyl and thiomorpholinyl, and
(l) aryl or heteroaryl selected from the class consisting of phenyl, thiophenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, furyl, pyrrolyl and oxazolyl,
- (vii) -SO₂R¹⁰⁸, wherein R¹⁰⁸ is:
- (a) phenyl, wherein said phenyl moiety is optionally substituted with
25 one or more moieties selected from the class consisting of the halogen atoms, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, and -OR¹¹⁷ (wherein R¹¹⁷ is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms),
(b) a heterocyclic group selected from the class consisting of
30 pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, morpholinyl and

thiomorpholinyl, wherein said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted with one or more moieties selected from the class consisting of the halogen atoms, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, and -OR¹¹⁸ (wherein R¹¹⁸ is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms), or

- (c) straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 atoms, wherein said alkyl moiety is optionally substituted with one or more moieties selected from the class consisting of the halogen atoms, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, and -OR¹¹⁹ (wherein R¹¹⁹ is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms),

(viii) -COR¹⁰⁹, wherein R¹⁰⁹ is:

- (a) phenyl, wherein said phenyl moiety is optionally substituted with one or more moieties selected from the class consisting of the halogen atoms, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, and -OR¹²⁰ (wherein R¹²⁰ is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms),
- (b) a heterocyclic group selected from the class consisting of pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, morpholinyl and thiomorpholinyl, wherein said heterocyclyl is optionally substituted with one or more halogen, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, or -OR¹²¹ (wherein R¹²¹ is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms), or
- (c) straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 atoms, wherein said alkyl moiety is optionally substituted with one or more moieties selected from the class consisting of the halogen atoms, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, and -OR¹²² (wherein R¹²² is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms), and

(ix) -CHO;

X is an oxygen atom;

R³ is branched or unbranched alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms;

R⁴ is a group of the formula -CH₂R⁵⁵, wherein,

R⁵⁵ is:

phenyl, which is optionally substituted at the 4-position with:

(A) R^{59e}, which is aryl or heteroaryl selected from the class consisting of phenyl, thiophenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl and furyl, wherein one of the hydrogen atoms of said aryl or heteroaryl group is optionally replaced with:

- (i) methyl,
- (ii) -CN,
- (iii) nitro, or
- (iv) halogen,

(B) methyl,

(C) -CN,

(D) nitro, or

(E) halogen;

R⁵ is Cl;

Z is =C(H)-; and,

R⁷ is Cl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. A compound of the formula I, as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

A¹ is =N-;

A² is =C(H)-;

D is =C(SO₂R¹)- or =C(C(O)R¹)-, wherein R¹ is selected from the class consisting of:

(A) -R^{100e}, which is:

branched or unbranched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms, in which alkyl, or cycloalkyl group one to three hydrogen atoms are optionally and independently replaced with:

- (i) oxo,
- (ii) a group of the formula $-\text{COOR}^{18}$, wherein R^{18} is straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms,
- (iii) a group of the formula $-\text{CONR}^{19}\text{R}^{20}$, wherein R^{19} and R^{20} are each, independently, a hydrogen atom, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 6 carbon atoms, or wherein R^{19} and R^{20} constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring, and wherein one carbon atom in said hydrocarbon bridge is optionally replaced by -O-, -NH-, or -NMe-,
- (iv) a group of the formula $-\text{OR}^{21}$, wherein R^{21} is a hydrogen atom, or a straight or branched alkyl or acyl group of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, or
- (v) a group of the formula $-\text{NR}^{23}\text{R}^{24}$, wherein R^{23} and R^{24} are each, independently,
- (a) a hydrogen atom,
- (b) straight or branched alkyl or acyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 7 carbon atoms,
- (c) a group of the formula $-(\text{CH}_2)_m\text{COOH}$, wherein m is 0, 1 or 2,
- (d) a group of the formula $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{COOR}^{25}$, wherein n is 0, 1 or 2, and wherein R^{25} is straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or
- (e) a group of the formula $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{CONHR}^{25}$, wherein n is 0, 1 or 2, and wherein R^{25} is straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, and
- (B) saturated heterocyclic groups selected from the class consisting of pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, morpholinyl and thiomorpholinyl, wherein said heterocyclic groups are optionally mono- or di-substituted with moieties independently selected from the class consisting of:
- (i) oxo,
- (ii) $-\text{OR}^{101}$, wherein R^{101} is:

- (a) a hydrogen atom,
- (b) alkyl of 1 to 7 carbons, wherein one hydrogen atom of said alkyl group is optionally replaced with -OH, -OR¹¹⁰ (wherein R¹¹⁰ is an alkyl moiety of 1 to 6 carbon atoms), -NH₂, -NHMe or -NMe₂,
- 5 (c) acyl of 1 to 7 carbons, wherein one hydrogen atom of said acyl group is optionally replaced with -OH, -OR¹¹¹ (wherein R¹¹¹ is an alkyl moiety of 1 to 6 carbon atoms), -NH₂, -NHMe or -NMe₂,
- (d) -CONR¹⁰²R¹⁰³, wherein R¹⁰² and R¹⁰³ are each independently a hydrogen atom or alkyl of 1 to 7 atoms, or wherein R¹⁰² and
10 R¹⁰³ constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring, and wherein one carbon atom in said hydrocarbon bridge is optionally replaced by -O-, -NH-, or -NMe-, or
- 15 (e) -COOR¹⁰⁴, wherein R¹⁰⁴ is alkyl of 1 to 7 atoms,
- (iii) -CONR¹⁰⁵R¹⁰⁶, wherein R¹⁰⁵ and R¹⁰⁶ are each independently:
 - (a) a hydrogen atom, or
 - (b) straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 7 atoms, wherein said alkyl or cycloalkyl group is optionally
20 monosubstituted with -OH, -OR¹²³ (wherein R¹²³ is an alkyl moiety of 1 to 6 carbon atoms), -NH₂, -NHMe, -NMe₂, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl or morpholinyl, or, wherein R¹⁰⁵ and R¹⁰⁶ constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen
25 atom between them form a heterocyclic ring, and wherein one carbon atom in said hydrocarbon bridge is optionally replaced by -O-, -NH-, or -NMe-,
- (iv) -COOR¹⁰⁷, wherein R¹⁰⁷ is a hydrogen atom, or straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms ,

- (v) straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 7 carbons, wherein one to three hydrogen atoms of said alkyl or cycloalkyl group is optionally replaced with a moiety independently selected from the class consisting of:
- 5 (a) oxo,
(b) -OH,
(c) -OR¹¹³, wherein R¹¹³ is alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms,
(d) -OCOCH₃,
(e) -NH₂,
10 (f) -NHMe,
(g) -NMe₂,
(h) -CO₂H, and
(i) -CO₂ R¹¹⁴ wherein R¹¹⁴ is alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms, or cycloalkyl of 3 to 7 carbons,
- 15 (vi) acyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, which may be straight, branched or cyclic, and wherein one or two hydrogen atoms of said acyl group is optionally replaced with a moiety selected from the class consisting of:
- (a) -OH,
(b) -OR¹¹⁵, wherein R¹¹⁵ is alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms,
20 (c) -NH₂,
(d) -NHMe,
(e) -NMe₂,
(f) -NHCOMe,
(g) oxo,
25 (h) -CO₂ R¹¹⁶, wherein R¹¹⁶ is alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms,
(i) -CN,
(j) the halogen atoms,
(k) heterocycles selected from the class consisting of pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, morpholinyl and thiomorpholinyl, and

- (l) aryl or heteroaryl selected from the class consisting of phenyl, thiophenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, furyl, pyrrolyl and oxazolyl,
- (vii) $-\text{SO}_2\text{R}^{108}$, wherein R^{108} is:
- (a) phenyl, wherein said phenyl moiety is optionally substituted with one moiety selected from the class consisting of the halogen atoms, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, and $-\text{OR}^{117}$ (wherein R^{117} is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms),
- (b) a heterocyclic group selected from the class consisting of pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, morpholinyl and thiomorpholinyl, wherein said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted with one moiety selected from the class consisting of the halogen atoms, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, and $-\text{OR}^{118}$ (wherein R^{118} is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms), or
- (c) straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 atoms, wherein said alkyl moiety is optionally substituted with one moiety selected from the class consisting of the halogen atoms, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, and $-\text{OR}^{119}$ (wherein R^{119} is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms),
- (viii) $-\text{COR}^{109}$, wherein R^{109} is:
- (a) phenyl, wherein said phenyl moiety is optionally substituted with one moiety selected from the class consisting of the halogen atoms, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, and $-\text{OR}^{120}$ (wherein R^{120} is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms),
- (b) a heterocyclic group selected from the class consisting of pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, morpholinyl and thiomorpholinyl, wherein said heterocyclyl is optionally substituted with one halogen, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, or $-\text{OR}^{121}$ (wherein R^{121} is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms), or

(c) straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 atoms, wherein said alkyl moiety is optionally substituted with one moiety selected from the class consisting of the halogen atoms, straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, and -OR¹²² (wherein R¹²² is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms), and

(ix) -CHO;

X is an oxygen atom;

R³ is branched or unbranched alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms;

R⁴ is a group of the formula -CH₂R⁵⁵, wherein,

R⁵⁵ is:

phenyl, which is optionally substituted at the 4-position with:

(A) R^{59e}, which is aryl or heteroaryl selected from the class consisting of phenyl, thiophenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl and furyl, wherein one of the hydrogen atoms of said aryl or heteroaryl group is optionally replaced with:

(i) methyl,

(ii) -CN,

(iii) nitro, or

(iv) halogen,

(B) methyl,

(C) -CN,

(D) nitro, or

(E) halogen;

R⁵ is Cl;

Z is =C(H)-; and,

R⁷ is Cl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. A compound of the formula I, as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

A¹ is =N-;

A² is =C(H)-;

D is =C(SO₂R¹)-, wherein R¹ is selected from the class consisting of:

5 (A) methyl, and

(B) saturated heterocyclic groups selected from the class consisting of pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl and morpholinyl wherein said heterocyclic groups are optionally mono- or di-substituted with moieties independently selected from the class consisting of:

10 (i) oxo,

(ii) -OR¹⁰¹, wherein R¹⁰¹ is:

(a) a hydrogen atom,

(b) alkyl of 1 to 7 carbons, wherein one hydrogen atom of said alkyl group is optionally replaced with -OH, -OR¹¹⁰ (wherein R¹¹⁰ is an alkyl moiety of 1 to 6 carbon atoms), -NH₂, -NHMe or -NMe₂,
15 or

(c) acyl of 1 to 7 carbons, wherein one hydrogen atom of said acyl group is optionally replaced with -OH, -OR¹¹¹ (wherein R¹¹¹ is an alkyl moiety of 1 to 6 carbon atoms), -NH₂, -NHMe or -NMe₂,

20 (iii) -CONR¹⁰⁵R¹⁰⁶, wherein R¹⁰⁵ and R¹⁰⁶ are each independently:

(a) a hydrogen atom, or

(b) straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 atoms or cycloalkyl of 3 to 7 atoms, wherein said alkyl or cycloalkyl group is optionally monosubstituted with -OH, -OR¹²³ (wherein R¹²³ is an alkyl moiety of 1 to 6 carbon atoms), -NH₂, -NHMe, -NMe₂,
25 pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl or morpholinyl,
or, wherein R¹⁰⁵ and R¹⁰⁶ constitute a saturated hydrocarbon bridge of 3 to 5 carbon atoms which together with the nitrogen atom between them form a heterocyclic ring, and wherein one

carbon atom in said hydrocarbon bridge is optionally replaced by
-O-, -NH-, or -NMe-,

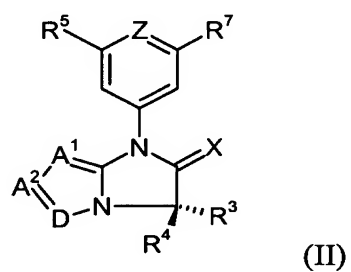
- (iv) -COOR¹⁰⁷, wherein R¹⁰⁷ is a hydrogen atom, or straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms ,
- 5 (v) straight or branched alkyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms wherein one or two hydrogen atoms of said alkyl group are optionally replaced with moieties independently selected from the class consisting of:
- (a) oxo,
- (b) -OH,
- 10 (c) -OR¹¹³, wherein R¹¹³ is alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms,
- (d) -OCOCH₃,
- (e) -NH₂,
- (f) -NHMe,
- (g) -NMe₂,
- 15 (h) -CO₂H, and
- (i) -CO₂ R¹¹⁴ wherein R¹¹⁴ is alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms, or cycloalkyl of 3 to 7 carbons,
- (vi) acyl of 1 to 7 carbon atoms, which may be straight, branched or cyclic, and wherein one or two hydrogen atoms of said acyl group is optionally
- 20 replaced with a moiety selected from the class consisting of:
- (a) -OH,
- (b) -OR¹¹⁵, wherein R¹¹⁵ is alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms,
- (c) -NH₂,
- (d) -NHMe,
- 25 (e) -NMe₂,
- (f) -NHCOMe,
- (g) oxo,
- (h) -CO₂ R¹¹⁶, wherein R¹¹⁶ is alkyl of 1 to 3 carbon atoms,
- (i) -CN,
- 30 (j) the halogen atoms,

- (k) heterocycles selected from the class consisting of pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl, morpholinyl and thiomorpholinyl, and
- (l) aryl or heteroaryl selected from the class consisting of phenyl, thiophenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, furyl, pyrrolyl and oxazolyl,
- 5 (vii) $-\text{SO}_2\text{R}^{108}$, wherein R^{108} is:
- (a) a heterocyclic group selected from the class consisting of pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl and morpholinyl wherein said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted with one moiety selected from the class consisting of straight or branched alkyl of 1
- 10 to 6 carbons, and $-\text{OR}^{118}$ (wherein R^{118} is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms),
- (viii) $-\text{COR}^{109}$, wherein R^{109} is:
- (a) a heterocyclic group selected from the class consisting of pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, piperazinyl and morpholinyl wherein said heterocyclic group is optionally substituted with one halogen, straight or
- 15 branched alkyl of 1 to 6 carbons, or $-\text{OR}^{121}$ (wherein R^{121} is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms), and
- (ix) $-\text{CHO}$;
- X is an oxygen atom;
- 20 R^3 is methyl;
- R^4 is a group of the formula $-\text{CH}_2\text{R}^{55}$, wherein,
- R^{55} is:
- phenyl, which is optionally substituted at the 4-position with:
- (A) R^{59e} , which is aryl or heteroaryl selected from the class consisting of
- 25 phenyl, pyridyl, and pyrimidinyl
- (B) $-\text{CN}$,
- (B) nitro, or
- (C) halogen;
- R^5 is Cl;
- 30 Z is $=\text{C}(\text{H})-$; and,

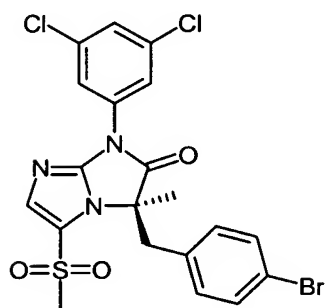
R^7 is Cl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

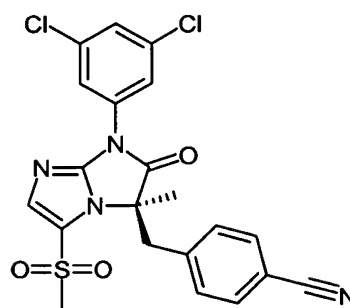
- 5 9. A compound of the formula I, in accordance with claim 1, 2, 3,4, 5, 6, 7 or 8, with the absolute stereochemistry depicted below in formula II (below).



10. A compound of the formula I, in accordance with claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:

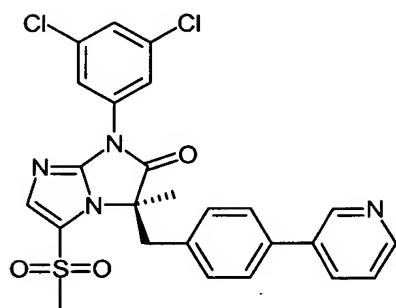


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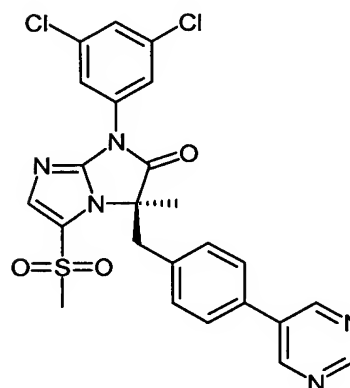


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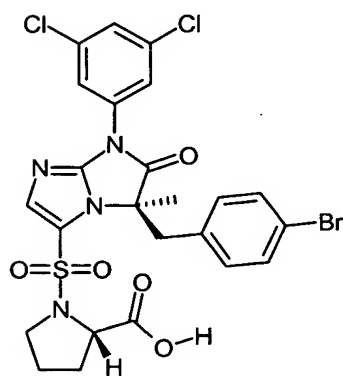
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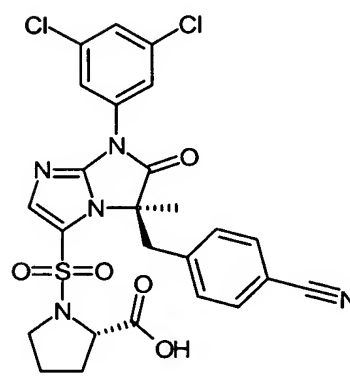
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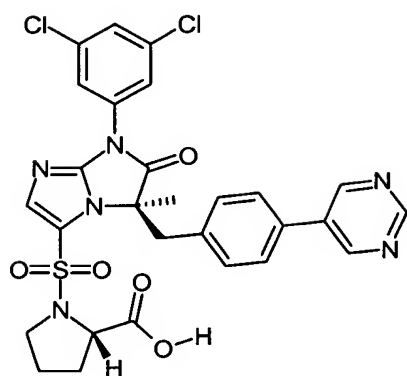


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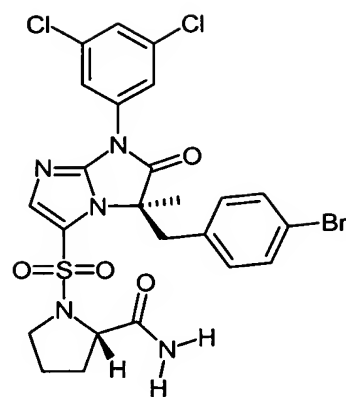


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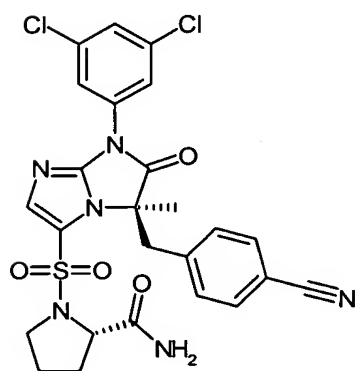
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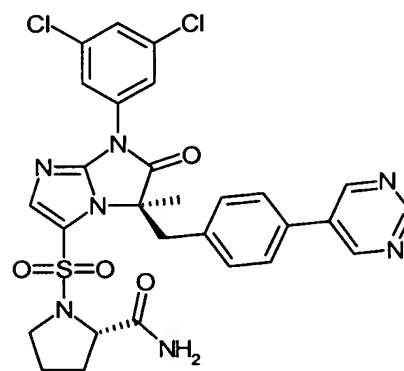


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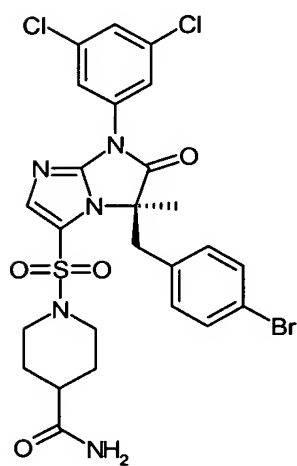


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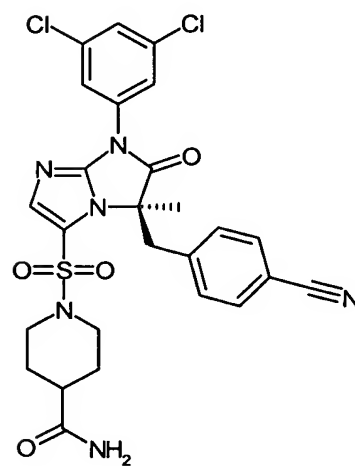
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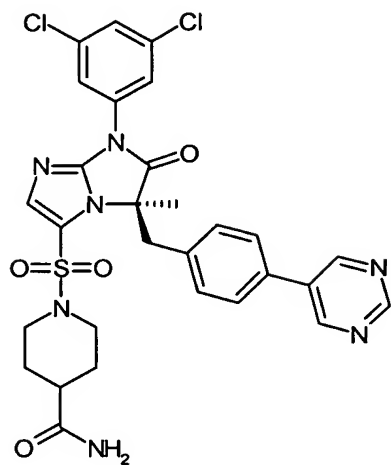
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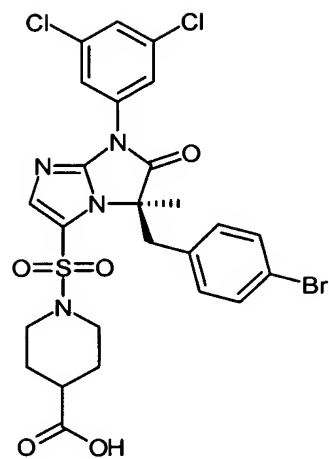
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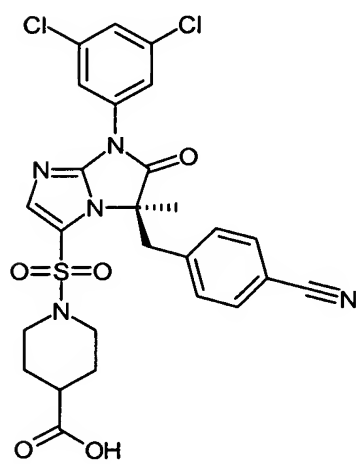


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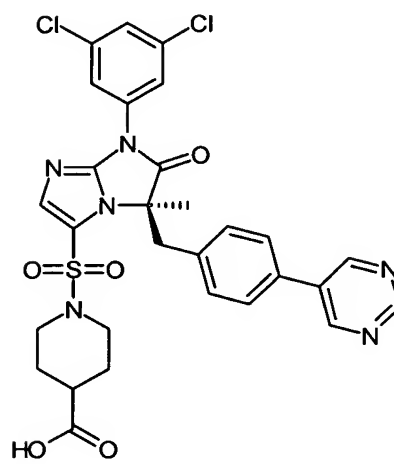


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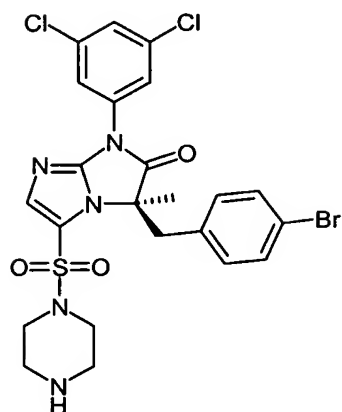
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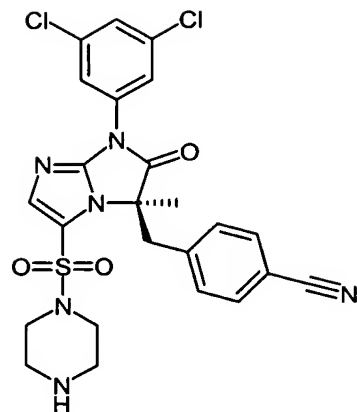
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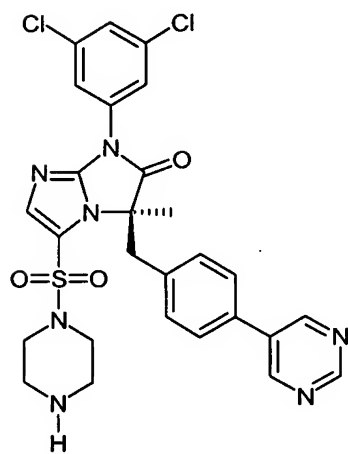
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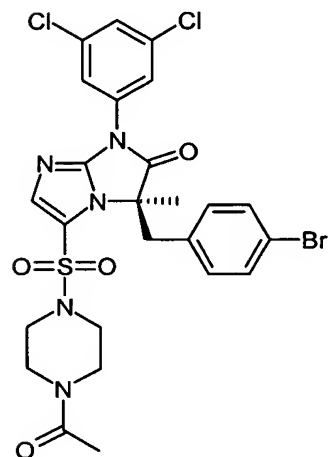
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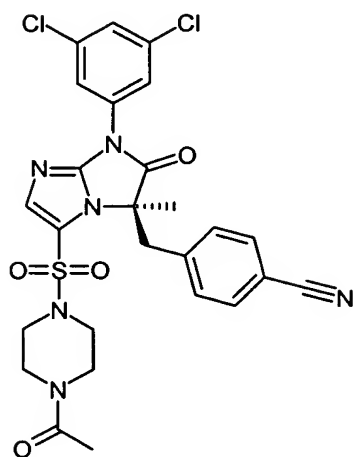
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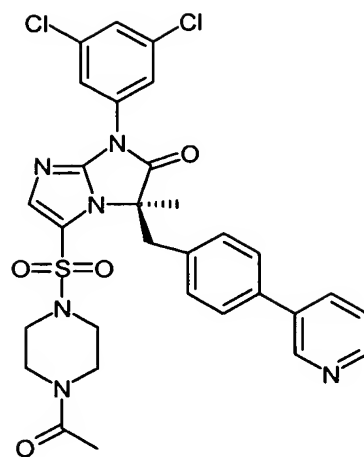
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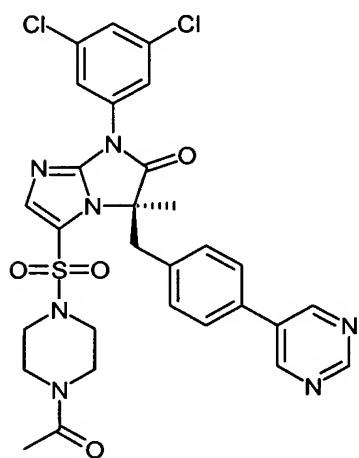
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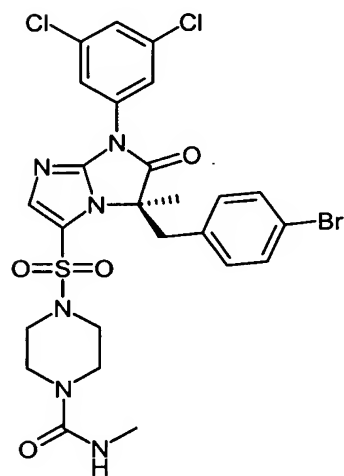
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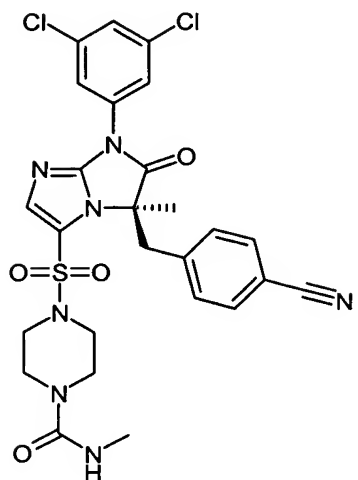
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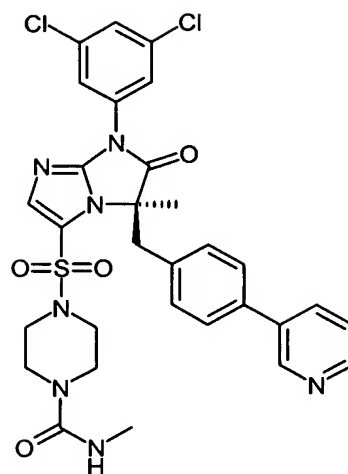
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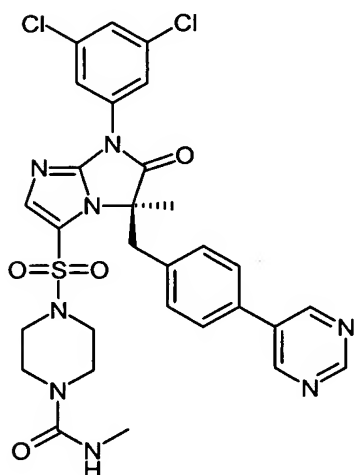
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or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

11. A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of inflammatory or immune cell-mediated diseases which comprises administering to a host in need of such treatment or prophylaxis a therapeutic or prophylactic amount of a compound in accordance with claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10. .

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12. The method of claim 11 wherein the disease or condition is selected from the group consisting of adult respiratory distress syndrome, shock, oxygen toxicity, multiple organ injury syndrome secondary to septicemia, multiple organ injury syndrome secondary to trauma, reperfusion injury of tissue due to cardiopulmonary bypass, myocardial infarction or use with thrombolysis agents, acute glomerulonephritis, vasculitis, reactive arthritis, dermatosis with acute inflammatory components, stroke, thermal injury, hemodialysis, leukapheresis, ulcerative colitis, necrotizing enterocolitis and granulocyte transfusion associated syndrome.

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13. The method of claim 11 wherein the disease or condition is selected from the group consisting of psoriasis, organ/tissue transplant rejection, graft vs. host reactions and autoimmune diseases including Raynaud's syndrome, autoimmune thyroiditis, dermatitis, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus, uveitis, inflammatory bowel disease including Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis; and systemic lupus erythematosus.

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20 14. The method of claim 11 wherein the disease or condition is asthma.

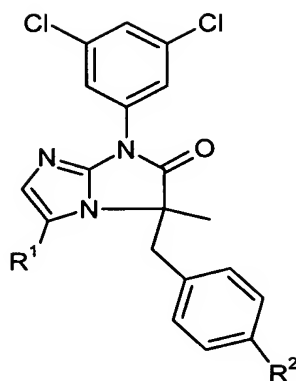
15. The method of claim 11 wherein the condition is toxicity associated with cytokine therapy.

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16. The method of claim 11 wherein the disease or condition is psoriasis.

30 17. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound in accordance with claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10.

18. A compound of the formula



wherein,

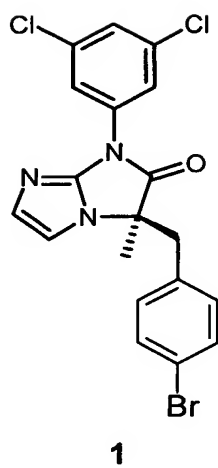
R¹ is selected from the class consisting of:

- (A) hydrogen,
- (B) the halogen atoms, and
- (C) SO₂⁻M⁺, wherein M⁺ is
 - (i) Li⁺,
 - (ii) Na⁺,
 - (iii) K⁺, or
 - (iv) MgX⁺, wherein X is a halogen; and

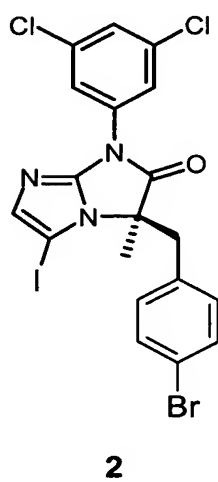
R² is selected from the class consisting of:

- (A) the halogen atoms,
- (B) aryl, selected from the class of
 - (i) phenyl,
 - (ii) pyridyl, and
 - (iii) pyrimidyl, and
- (C) CN.

19. In accordance with claim 18, the compound of the following formula:



- 5 20. In accordance with claim 18, the compound of the following formula:



21. In accordance with claim 18, the compound of the following formula:

